

# THE GREEN BOOK



BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

## PART 1

The solution of the problem of Democracy

## PART 2

The solution of the Economic Problem

## PART 3

The Social Basis of the Third Universal Theory

In these three volumes the Libyan leader examines the economic, social and political problems confronting the world today, and presents a radical programme for their solution.

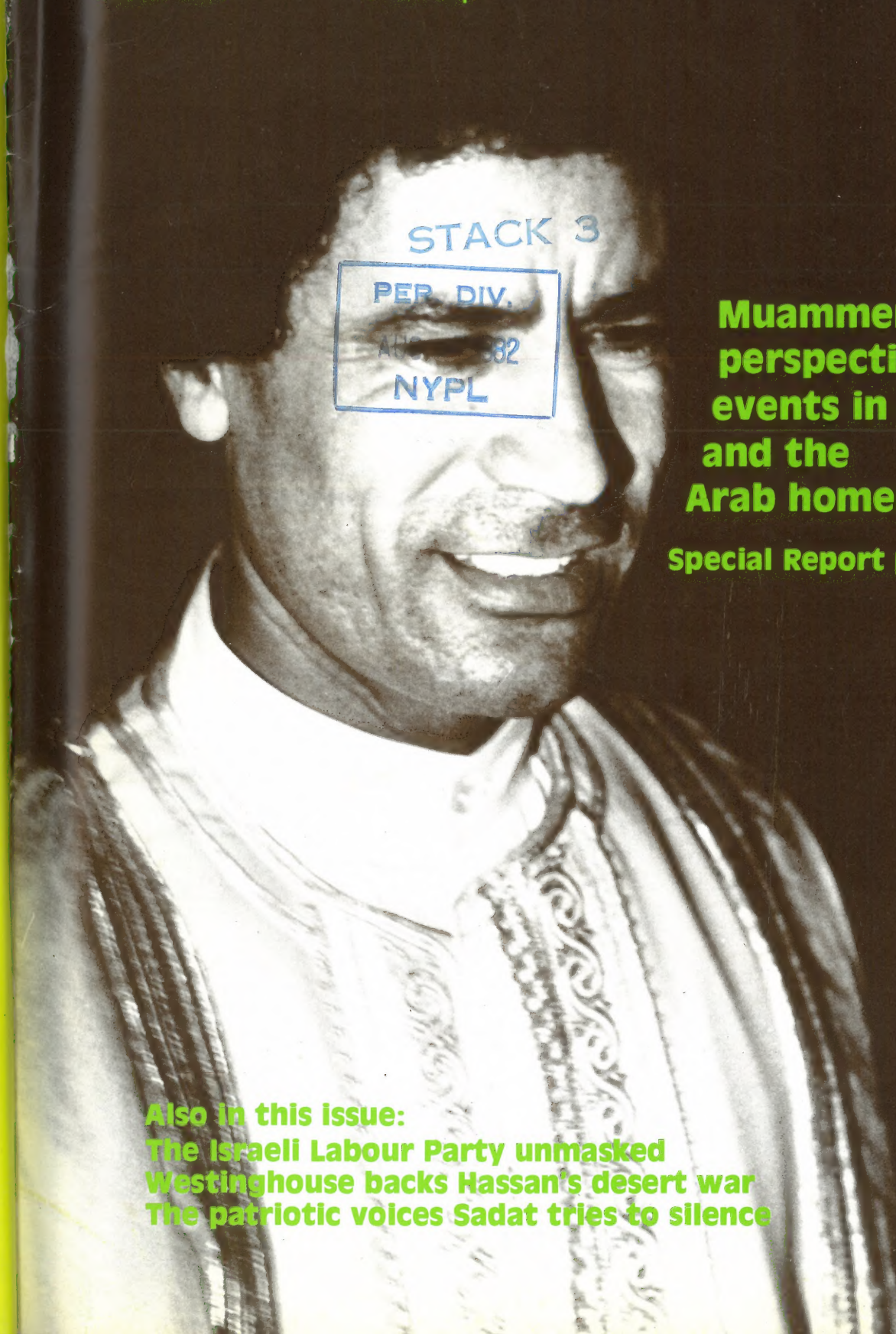
The Green Book provides a comprehensive review of the theories on which the Libyan Jamahiriya is based. The proposals put forward by Muammar al Qadhafi are not merely theories but an explanation and insight into the structure and priorities of modern Libya.

Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.

# jamahiriya review

March 1981

Price 50p



**Muammar Qadhafi's  
perspective of  
events in Africa  
and the  
Arab homeland**

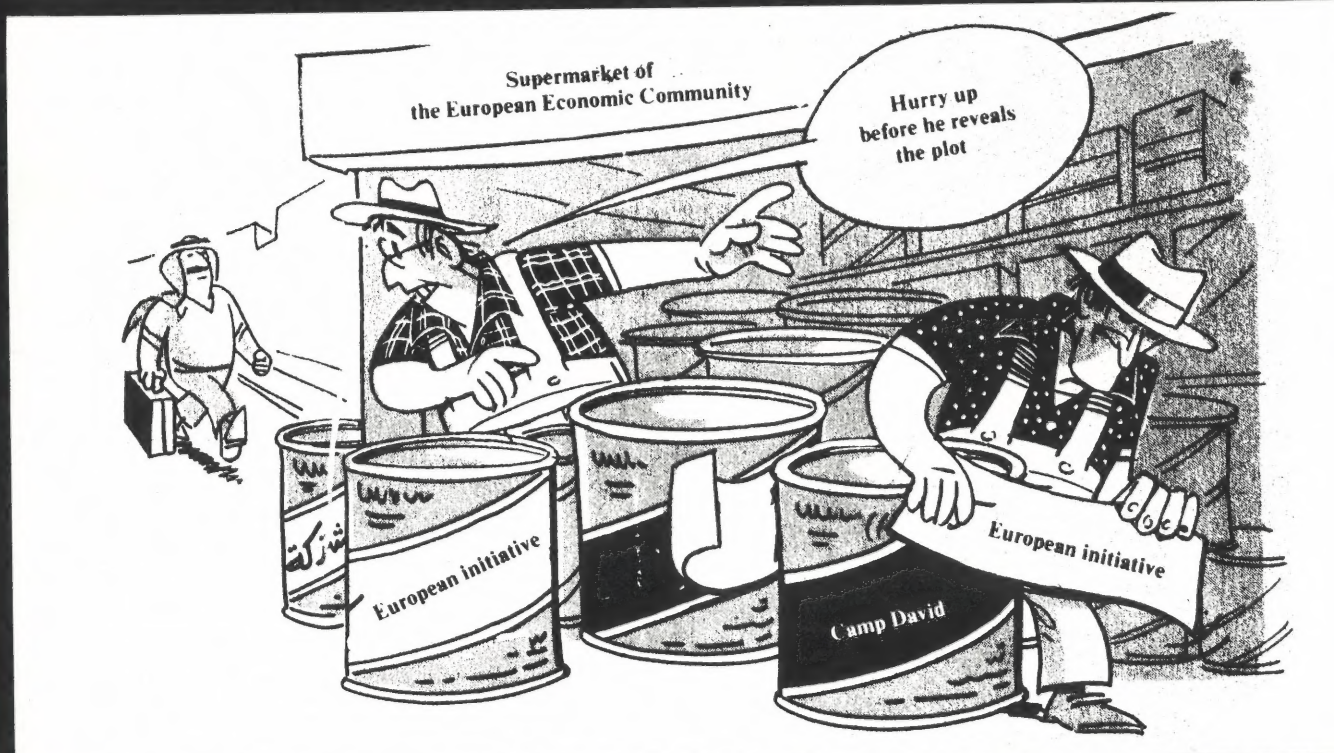
**Special Report pages 8-10**

**Also in this issue:**

**The Israeli Labour Party unmasked  
Westinghouse backs Hassan's desert war  
The patriotic voices Sadat tries to silence**



# Cartoon Comments



# jamahiriya review

Issue No 10 March 1981

**COVER STORY:** A comprehensive review of current events in Africa and the Arab homeland has been given by Muammer Qadhafi in the course of speeches and interviews over the past few weeks. In a specially extended report (pages 8-10), Louis Eaks reviews the Libyan leader's comments on a wide range of issues which provide a penetrating insight into the Al Fateh Revolution's perspective of the modern world.

**MORE POWERFUL** than many independent states, the American multinationals have a long record of intervention in the Third World to determine the outcome of events. Steve Talbot reports on the increasing support from these multinationals for King Hassan's attempts to annex Western Sahara.

**A SERIES** of events have aroused hopes that moves towards greater co-operation in the Arab Maghreb might be on the way. From Tunis, Abdelmajid Bejar looks at the effects of recent changes in the Tunisian government, and its fresh approach to regional affairs, while Dr Alan George reports on the improvement of relations between the Libyan Jamahiriya and Tunisia.

**EGYPT UNDER Sadat:** A special news report looks at the efforts by the Sadat regime to silence critics of the government's policies. In a related feature, a recent book by General Saad Shazli provides a first-hand account of how Sadat turned the heroic Arab crossing of the Suez Canal into a near defeat for the Arab nation.

COVER: Photograph of Muammer Qadhafi by Ron McKay/Camera Press, London. This photograph also appears on page 8.

Published by Jamahiriya Review, 13A Hillgate Street, London W8 7SP. Telephone: 01-727 3131. Telex: 892830 Event G. Printed by W.F. Aldridge & Company Limited, London SW16 6NW. We acknowledge the co-operation of JANA, the Jamahiriya News Agency, in providing its daily information bulletin.

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# The challenge to independence in the Third World

HARDLY HAS Ronald Reagan had time to cross the threshold of the White House than he has started attempting to justify his position as President of the United States through a series of moves designed to intimidate and threaten the independent nations of the Third World. Reagan has the good fortune of having the power of the western controlled mass media in his armoury, but this must not be allowed to silence the voices of just causes, nor legitimise Washington's efforts to subjugate the rights of independent nations.

Washington has decided to escalate its warnings of Soviet penetration in the Third World. And although the Western media may fill its pages with global maps showing Soviet military bases beyond the borders of the Soviet Union, the dangers to independence in the Third World come not from these but from the American military presence which is used to protect a range of military dictators hardly known for their respect of human rights and justice.

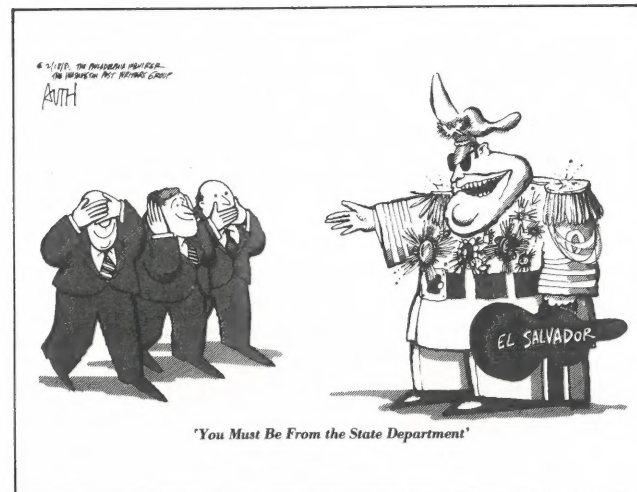
Although only 27 per cent of Americans backed by Mr Reagan in the polls last year, he has taken this as mandate to escalate America's militarist role. The immediate testing ground of Washington's arrogance that it alone knows what is best is in El Salvador. Despite the appalling atrocities being carried out against the civilian population of that country by a military junta shielding behind the facade of democratic government, Reagan has chosen to put the weight of the US nation behind a cruel and reactionary regime. Already there are more US military advisors in El Salvador than the USA had drafted into Vietnam before it sent in its troops.

No one disputes the problems confronting every Third World regime, the pressing social and economic problems coupled with the acute shortage of resources with which to implement a coherent and meaningful development programme. This, in itself, leads to the emergence of revolutionary movements for change, when change itself is not always easy to achieve. However, the entitlement of a regime to remain in power has to be judged on criteria which are markedly lacking in Washington's analysis of which regime to support, and which to undermine and destabilise. A regime which is committed to a programme which will bring social equality, and which will liberate the people from the oppression of hunger and deprivation, deserves support. All others must rightly face the anger of the people as expressed through revolutionary movements.

Washington pays only lip-service to the concept of independence. The plight of the Third World is directly related to the economic policies pursued by the United States. The emphasis of Reagan's strategy is that if the Third World nations can be kept in a servile state, halted in their moves to demand an equitable international global system, so that they can develop and fulfil the aspirations of their people, then the American economy will remain strong. It is a policy of affluence for the American people based on the subjugation of the rest of the developing world.

Reagan has no respect for the independence of other nations. Instead he attempts to prop up dictatorial regimes to protect what are euphemistically termed 'America's vital national interests'.

The dangers to international peace and security come undoubtedly from Washington. The United States is determined to ensure its monopoly over power and influence outside the Soviet Union. It despises every effort for regional co-operation, however much this might contribute to world security. One needs look no further than western Europe for an example of how Washington fears regional power groups. How much greater, therefore, are the efforts to subvert other



regional groupings which do not have the traditional and close links with the United States.

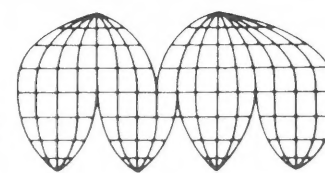
In the Arab homeland the continued existence of feudal regimes, with their rigged systems of parliamentary democracy operating at the whim of the ruler, has done much to bring the Arab nation into disrepute. And rightly so. Libya's Muammer Qadhafi is perhaps the only Arab leader to openly condemn this shameful situation, and to assert that feudalism must be replaced with democracy, and justice and freedom established where none exists today. The fact that the Libyan Jamahiriya and the struggling people of El Salvador are the targets of Washington's evil designs says much of the psychology and thinking of the United States' leaders.

No one can dispute Muammer Qadhafi's recent statement to West German radio that 'if Islam were truly liberated, the Islamic world would need no help from the great powers... Islam could play a positive role in international politics and broaden the base for positive neutralism.' It is America's fear of such a development which leads it to keep the Arab homeland under its domination, maintaining feudal regimes to act as its commissioner under the guise of independence.

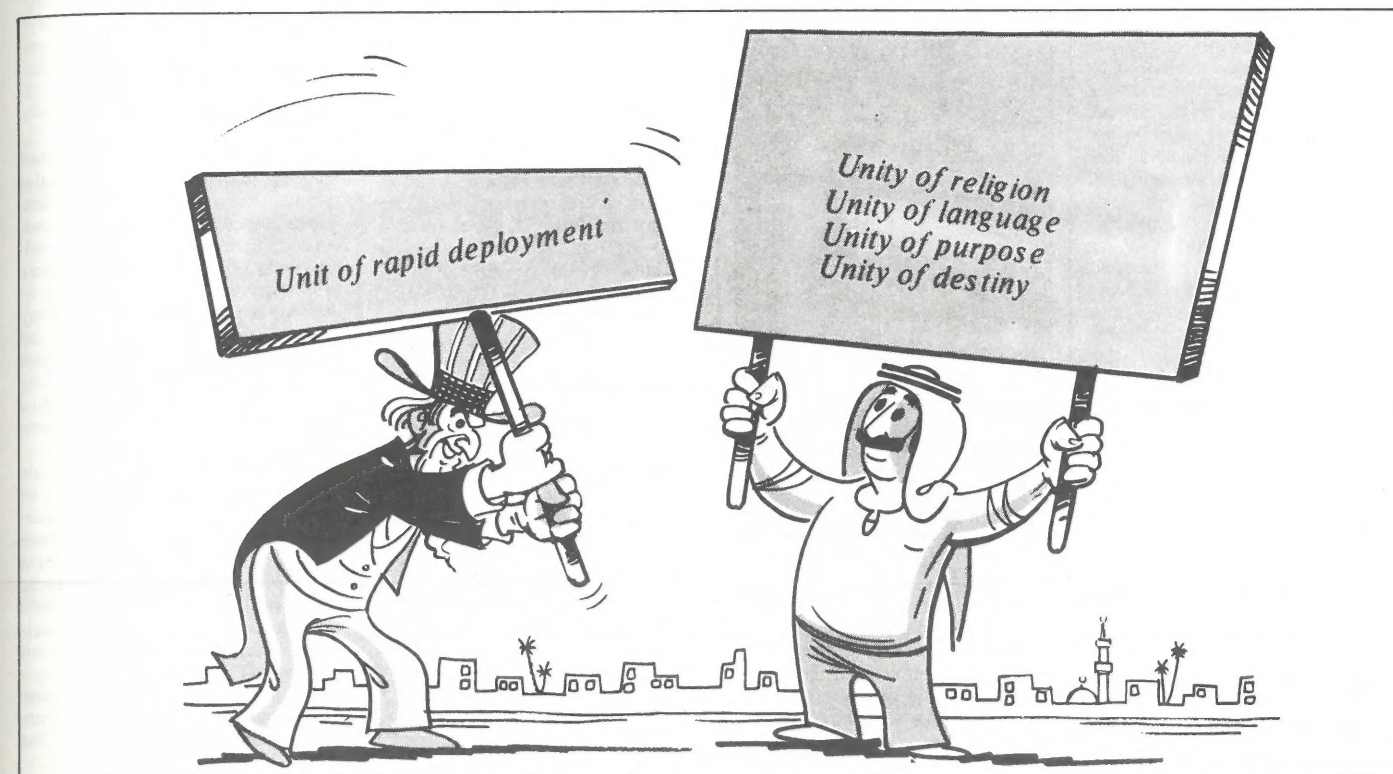
It is precisely this concept of 'neutralism' which the United States abhors. Since the Iranian Revolution, the authorities in Tehran have maintained a firmly non-aligned position between Moscow and Washington, yet this has not stopped the United States from adopting an hostile stance towards the Iranians. Likewise, the Libyan Jamahiriya, since the 1969 1st September Revolution, has followed a strictly non-aligned, though positive, foreign policy. Yet in Washington's eyes independence for these countries, even non-alignment, means the right for American multinationals to exploit Iranian and Libyan national resources, not for the interests of the host country, but freedom for the United States to plunder these resources in its own self-interest.

If the peoples of the West, the Europeans and the Americans, are genuinely concerned with world peace, then they have to respect the rights of independent states to freely determine their own independent policies. The Reagan interpretation of independence is fast taking the world towards confrontation. It is precisely such confrontation, with its nuclear dimensions, which the principles of the Libyan Revolution set out in the Third International Theory, and Muammer Qadhafi's Green Book, seek to avoid. But if human rights and social justice are to be denied to the Third World, it can only follow the example in El Salvador.

A monthly review of Libyan, Islamic and Third World affairs



PANORAMA news review



## Follow the example of Christian nuns, Qadhafi tells Libyan women

THE DEDICATION and commitment of nuns in the Christian movement provide an example which Libyan women should follow. This was the message of Muammer Qadhafi, when he addressed a meeting of the Women's Revolutionary Vanguard Formations in Benghazi on 12th February.

Just as nuns 'devote themselves totally to serve Christ', Qadhafi urged Libyan women to break with the traditional restrictions placed on them, and translate their commitment to the ideals and values of the Al Fateh Revolution into action in defence of the Arab homeland.

Referring to what he called 'this dangerous turning point' in the history of the Arab nation, he urged Libyan women to recognise their role in confronting 'the forces of exploitation and ignorance', and in reasserting 'our dignity'.

He saw the dedication and commitment of nuns as 'a challenge to Muslim women', adding, 'We need a corps of revolutionary nuns. Revolutionary work, jihad, priesthood and puritanism are all acts of

bringing comfort. We need a theological, revolutionary teaching so that we do not exist on the edge of events behind a thick curtain.'

Against the background of America's increasingly aggressive and interventionist foreign policy, which is focused on the Arab homeland, Qadhafi told the meeting of Libyan women: 'The present situation is extremely bad. We must continue to fight, struggle and sacrifice, and to sweat and shed our blood to win victory at this stage.'

The Libyan leader pointed out, 'If this nation wants to win, then it must not differentiate between men and women, since the enemy is against each one of us. We must all, men and women, fight in the trenches, do weapon training and fight our enemy.'

'We want everyone to understand that they are living through a phase of political and social liberation,' Muammer Qadhafi continued.

He added, 'The Arab homeland has not yet liberated itself politically, so imperialism is present either directly or indirectly, and so are the reactionary governments that exist now under the guise of nationalism in the Arab homeland and the rest of the underdeveloped and colonised world. They are a substitute for direct colonialism and its presence.'

'The existence of these governments makes us realise that we are still in the phase of political liberation,' Brother Qadhafi pointed out.

## Saharan co-operation on course, despite the West

A SERIES of recent events suggests that co-operation between African and Arab states remains on course, despite the efforts by the Western nations to exploit Libya's aid to Chad in a bid to divide African nations. The West can receive little consolation that despite their continued intelligence and press campaign, the foreign ministers of Chad, Algeria, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and the Libyan Jamahiriya convened in Algiers in mid-February to examine plans for strengthening regional co-operation between the Saharan states.

Once the details of the Libyan-Chad joint communiqué, which prompted Western claims of Libyan annexation of her southern neighbour, had been fully examined by African leaders, it appears that initial positions have been adjusted to fit the facts.

A meeting of African ministers of the OAU in Addis Ababa in mid-February failed to accept Western allegations against Libya, and instead repeated a demand for democratic elections under OAU supervision to be held in Chad — a position already in line with

Libya's view of the next step forward.

During February a top-level Libyan delegation headed by Major Abdesalam Jalloud flew to Lagos for talks with Nigeria's President Shugu Shagari. Nigeria, as a rich oil producing state, is one of Africa's most powerful nations in the region. There was no official announcement on the outcome of the discussions, but the *Financial Times* in London reported on 19th February, quoting Nigerian officials, that the Jamahiriya was considering an arrangement whereby its troops would be withdrawn from Chad on condition that French troops are pulled out of the Central African Republic. The latter neighbours on Chad, and has seen a massive build-up of French forces in recent weeks, arousing fears of French intervention in Chad.

## Opposition to nuclear arms restated

ALLEGATIONS that the Libyan Jamahiriya has been financing the development of an atomic bomb by Pakistan have been firmly refuted by the Libyan leader, Muammer Qadhafi. Responding to the claims which have been widely circulated by the Western media, Colonel Qadhafi told the Bombay weekly



► newsmagazine *Current* in January that there had been no such co-operation.

'We did not, and would not, give Pakistan a single dirham to make such a bomb,' Muammer Qadhafi declared.

Since the early days following the overthrow of the Idris regime by the Al Fateh Revolution, the Libyan Jamahiriya has declared its abhorrence of nuclear weapons, and warned of the threat they pose to the future of humanity. In a BBC television interview last year, Qadhafi had earlier rejected the allegations of co-operation in this field with Pakistan. He told the interviewer: 'We are against nuclear war and against nuclear weapons and their proliferation. We support all arms limitation agreements. There is no co-operation between us and Pakistan in this respect.'

Late last year the Libyan Jamahiriya agreed to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency's rules which are intended to ensure that nuclear materials are not used for military purposes. The IAEA said the agreement with the Jamahiriya was in accordance with the provisions of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which Libya signed in 1975. The agreement also applies to contracts for the supply of nuclear technology.

## Baghdad jails top nuclear scientist

IRAQI RULER Saddam Hussein has never denied his determination to acquire atomic weapons but this has not prevented his repressive regime from jailing the only man in Iraq capable of carrying through the country's nuclear plans. It was reported in February that Dr Jaafer Dia Jaafer, Iraq's leading nuclear physicist and a member of the team of Iraqi scientists directing the atomic weapons programme, has been arrested and thrown into jail for his open opposition to the Baghdad dictatorship. Jaafer's friends in Europe have reportedly received a letter, smuggled out of Iraq, telling of his conflict with Saddam Hussein and appealing for the support of Western scientists for his release.

## Progressive Arabs seek to balance US penetration

DEMOCRATIC YEMEN'S President Ali Nasser Muhammed arrived in Damascus on 21st February at the end of a tour of the Middle East which had taken him to Ethiopia, Algeria and the Libyan Jamahiriya. His main task, as set out in an official South Yemeni declaration issued after January's Islamic conference in Taif, is to convene a meeting of all



Democratic Yemen's President Ali Nasser

Gulf states and the states of the Arabian Peninsula and Horn of Africa in order to discuss the region's security in view of the threat of outside military intervention.

President Ali Nasser has also called for urgent efforts to settle the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, as in his estimation the five month old Gulf war has been used by the United States as a pretext to boost its military presence in the region.

All the states the Yemeni leader visited in his tour are members of the Arab Steadfastness Front, with the exception of Ethiopia, which however has a foreign policy very much in line with that of the Front.

Indeed, there has been an increasing identity by Ethiopia with the radical and progressive Arab states in the Front. It supports the Libyan and Chadian position on the issue of Chad's security, and is a firm opponent of the proliferation of US military bases in the Middle East and Indian Ocean, and has declared solid support for the Palestinian cause. Last August, Ethiopia opened diplomatic relations with Syria, despite the latter's support for the Eritrean Liberation Movement, and connections with other opposition groups in Ethiopia.

## Libyan aid for Chad's reconstruction

A TOP level Libyan delegation headed by Staff Major Abdesalam Jalloud has pledged financial aid to help in the reconstruction of the war-torn Chad economy and in rebuilding its armed forces. The announcement came in a joint Libyan-Chadian communiqué on

14th February at the end of two days of talks between the Jamahiriya's delegation and the Chad president Koukouni Oued-dei.

The statement said: 'The Libyan Arab side expressed its readiness to provide the necessary aid for the rebuilding of the Chadian army, revival of joint economic projects and the establishment of new projects in banking, agricultural development, animal resources, industrial development and transport and communications.'

At a press conference the same day Major Jalloud announced that the Jamahiriya's financial aid would cover the rebuilding of basic services and amenities, including Ndjamena's airport, the radio and news agency. It would also be directed to social welfare programmes in areas such as health care and education.

## Reagan's backing sought for Sadat's intrigues

WAR AGAINST the Libyan Jamahiriya is expected to be high on the agenda of talks between Egyptian ruler Anwar Sadat and President Reagan when they meet in Washington shortly. Arab diplomatic sources say Sadat will ask Reagan for permission to use US weapons in an attack on Libya. The sources said the pretext for an assault on Libya would be fabricated claims that the Jamahiriya had attacked the Sudan from Chad territory. Sadat's aims, they say, would be to destroy the Jamahiriya's system of direct democracy and to seize her oil fields.

It is feared that Sadat's request for approval and help with the attack will receive support from Reagan, who has singled out the Jamahiriya as a target for hostile American intervention. Relying on information from the United States, the Arab diplomatic sources said that French President Giscard d'Estaing supports Sadat's plan.

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## Nobel prize proposed for Nicaragua

FERNANDO CARDENAL, the director of Nicaragua's successful literacy campaign last year, has been nominated for the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize by 133 British parliamentarians. They include Labour leader Michael Foot and ten members of the Shadow Cabinet, Liberal leader David Steel and five other Liberal MPs and a small group of Conservative backbenchers.

'We believe that the transformation of Nicaragua from a country at war with itself to a country at war with illiteracy was a staggering

achievement which fully merits the award of the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize,' say the nominators.

The Nicaragua literacy campaign achieved a reduction in Nicaragua's illiteracy rate from 50 per cent to 12 per cent.

## PFLP leader backs Libya-Syria merger

BASSAM ABU Sharif, a member of the politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has declared his organisation's firm support for the impending union of Syria and the Libyan Jamahiriya, and has expressed its strong condemnation of the Iraqi aggression against Iran. In an interview with the New York *Guardian* on 28th January, Abu Sharif said of the Syria-Libya merger: 'We are for it. We support it.'

He added that the union should be carefully prepared to ensure its survival: 'Basic conditions for survival depend on giving the masses democratic freedom to express their point of view, freedom to be organised, to carry on their fight against the enemy and to participate in the battle, especially in this country (Lebanon).'

The PFLP official strongly condemned the Iraqi attack on Iran, saying the war 'only serves the United States'.

'The fact is that it opened the door very wide for direct military intervention of the US. At the same time, it wages an attack on a revolution that slapped imperialism and toppled a very important reactionary regime, the Shah's regime in Iran. Therefore we feel that this war will only serve the US and the reactionaries. We condemn the war and we condemn the party that started it,' he added.

## 125 Moroccan troops die in Saharan battle

FIGHTERS OF the Polisario Front, who are waging a bitter struggle against King Hassan's forces for the independence of the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, have reported further important military successes. On 6th February an attack was launched in the Ras al Khanfarah area, close to Morocco's frontier, resulting in the death of 125 Moroccan troops and the wounding of the same number, according to a communiqué issued by the Information Ministry of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), set up in exile by the Polisario. The communiqué added that on the same day Saharan fighters shelled Moroccan forces in the area of Bir Enzaran, on the territory of the SADR, causing heavy casualties and severe material losses.

## Syrian-Libyan meeting planned for Damascus

A MEETING between Libya and Syria to review progress towards the union between the two countries is planned for March, according to the Libyan Secretary for Justice, Muhammed Abu al Qasim az Zuwayy, speaking to the Kuwait News Agency in Damascus on 22nd February.

The Libyan Secretary dismissed reports of problems arising over the union plan, and stressed the benefits such a scheme would have in defending the Arab homeland during the current critical stage.

'It is a unity of fighting for dignity and for checking the Zionist attack against the Arab nation,' he said.

Questioned about Muammer Qadhafi's recent comments regarding the Libyan Jamahiriya relations with the Soviet Union, the Libyan Secretary explained that the Jamahiriya was not contemplating a treaty of friendship and co-operation with the USSR at present, but it might do so if it was subjected to what he called foreign dangers threatening its security.

'Circumstances forced Syria to sign such a treaty. We appreciate those circumstances. Should Libya encounter similar circumstances, it too might be forced to sign a similar treaty with the USSR,' he said.

On the Gulf Co-operation Council formed by six Arab Gulf countries, he said that Libya believed 'that it is the right of the Arab Gulf countries to be responsible for their own security and interests without any foreign hegemony whatsoever.'

A communiqué issued at the end of talks between President Ali Nasser and Libya's Muammer Qadhafi in Tripoli on 21st February, displayed a common approach between the two Arab leaders on the need to confront the increasing US military presence in the region. The communiqué also referred to the identity of views on the Palestine question, Chad, and support for liberation movements in Western Sahara, Namibia and southern Africa.

## US to stage military exercise with Oman

THE UNITED States and Oman were scheduled to conduct joint military exercises at the end of February, according to an announcement on 11th February by State Department spokesman William Dyess during a four-day visit to Washington by Oman's Foreign Minister. Dyess called the manoeuvres 'small-scale' and of less than two weeks duration. He

also referred to them as 'communications exercises'.

This will be the third in a series of joint manoeuvres undertaken by the United States and countries which have granted the US base rights in the wake of Carter's declaration a year ago that Washington was to beef up its military presence in and around the Arab homeland. Joint manoeuvres were held off the coast of Kenya last summer, and with Egyptian forces last autumn.

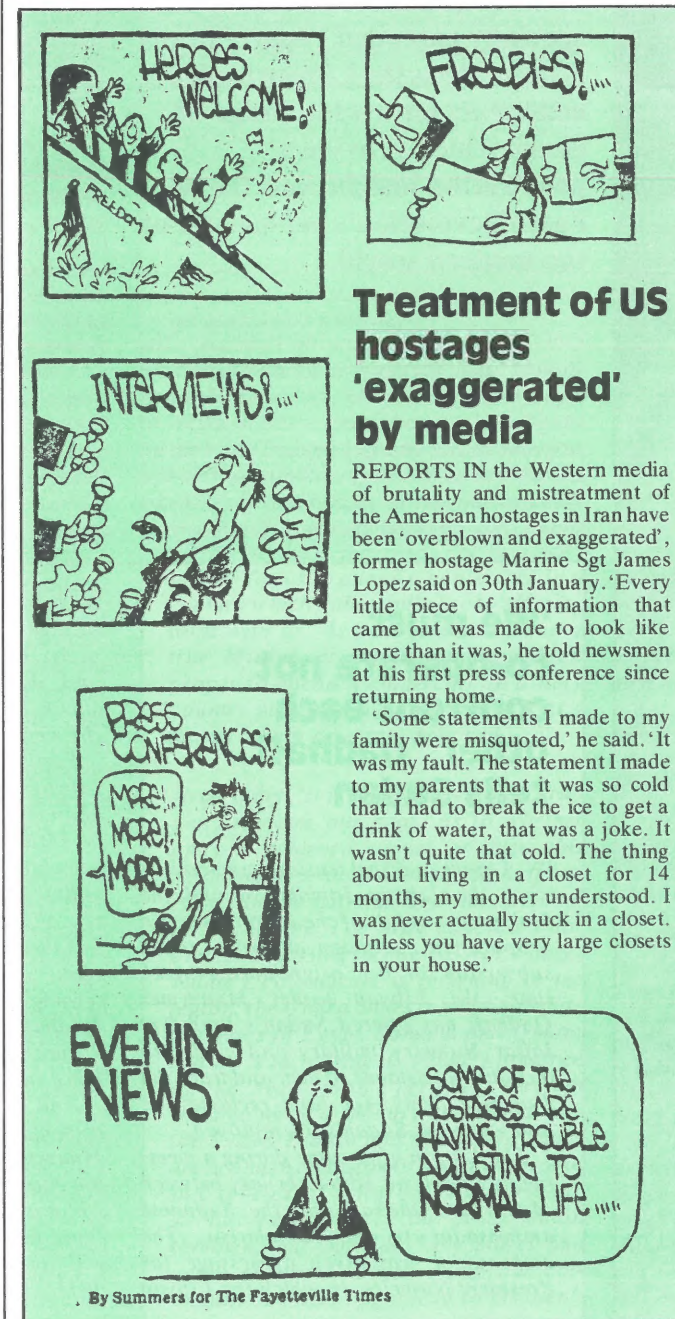
## Fulbright calls for US-PLO relations

'IT IS high time for Washington to alter its negative attitude towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and establish direct relations with it,' William Fulbright, former

Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee has declared. In an interview with the Gulf daily *Khaleej Times* on 16th February, he added: 'Some Americans, including congressmen, have already gone ahead by establishing contacts with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.'

Mr Fulbright, who took up a law practice in Washington on his resignation after thirty years in the Senate and two years as a congressman, said that Europe and some other parts of the world had already recognised the inevitability of PLO participation in Middle East peace efforts but 'only Israel and America are still opposed to such reality.' He stressed, 'I do not see how we can expect to bring comprehensive peace in the Middle East without the full participation of the PLO in such a drive.'

Commenting on the current superpower rivalry in the Gulf, Red Sea and Indian Ocean regions,



Mr Fulbright said he did not approve of the American rhetoric about establishing military bases in the area. 'Such moves will create problems for the countries of the area,' he said.

Senator Fulbright established a reputation during his period in Washington as a forthright critic of America's foreign policy. In particular, he was amongst the most outspoken opponents of the United States' military involvement in the Vietnam War, and consistently challenged the views of the Pentagon and State Departments from his powerful position as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In 1978 he showed his independence from the Washington establishment, when he visited the Libyan Jamahiriya as one of the high-ranking participants in the Libyan sponsored Arab-American People's Dialogue held in Tripoli.

## Iran breaks with Jordan and Morocco

IRAN HAS broken diplomatic relations with Jordan and Morocco, Tehran radio announced on 1st February. It said the break had been approved at a four-hour meeting of the Iranian Council of Ministers on 31st January by an overwhelming majority. Executive Affairs Minister Behzad Nabavi told the radio the move was made 'because of the countries' full support for the Iraqi regime and their enmity to the Islamic Revolution of Iran.' He added: 'Our relations (with Jordan and Morocco) were already at their lowest level.'

## Arab League angered by Europe's invitation to Sadat

THE ARAB League's Council has expressed its astonishment at the decision of the European Parliament to invite the Sadat regime to participate in the revived Euro-Arab dialogue, describing the step as an 'intervention in the internal affairs of the Council'.

Mr Chedli Klibi, Secretary-General of the Arab League, said in an interview with the Gulf daily *Al Khaleej* on 15th February that the General Secretariat of the Council considered the European move as a manoeuvre aimed at threatening the future of the Euro-Arab dialogue at a time when both sides were preparing to bolster it on the basis of mutual respect for each side's interests. 'The same position was behind the dialogue's failure to produce anything for over a year,' he said.



## Muammar Qadhafi's perspective of events in Africa and the Arab homeland

A COMPREHENSIVE review of current events in Africa and the Arab homeland has been given by Muammar Qadhafi in the course of speeches and interviews over the past few weeks. In this specially extended report, Louis Eaks reviews the Libyan leader's comments on a wide range of issues which provide a penetrating insight into the Al Fateh Revolution's perspective of the modern world.

ON TWO occasions during February, the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi took the opportunity to define his position on a range of current issues, and sought to respond to the charges against the Libyan Jamahiriya now being orchestrated in the Western media. In particular, the Libyan leader has stressed that the Jamahiriya's

troops will not remain in Chad a day longer than requested by the Chadian authorities. In addition, Muammar Qadhafi has firmly refuted allegations that there was any Soviet involvement in the Libyan role in Chad. Finally, Colonel Qadhafi has emphasised that the presence of Libyan forces in Chad has a strict peacekeeping role, and he has sought to reassure African leaders in the region that contrary to Western intelligence claims, the Jamahiriya has no territorial ambitions, either in Chad or over a wider Central African arena.

The Libyan leader's comments come within a period of one week. On 8th February, Colonel Qadhafi gave a wide-ranging address when he spoke to the General Conference of Jamahiriya Students meeting at Garyounis University in Benghazi. A week later the Libyan leader was afforded a wider audience in an interview with West German radio, which took place in Tripoli on 15th February.

Addressing the Libyan students in Benghazi, Colonel Qadhafi pointed out that Libya had merely answered a call from the Chadian government to send troops to assist in ending the rebellion led by Hissab Habre. The move had not been a Libyan initiative.

### 'We must co-operate not confront each other,' Qadhafi tells Sudan

IN A move to dispel tensions created between the Libyan Jamahiriya and the Sudan, as a result of the current western propaganda campaign alleging Libyan subversion in her neighbouring Arab state, the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has offered Sudan's President Jaffar Numeiry military and civil aid, including assistance to arm and train the Sudanese army, for land reclamation, and work for Sudan's unemployed.

The Libyan offer came during a meeting in Tripoli on 18th February between Muammar Qadhafi and the Sudanese ambassador to the Jamahiriya. The ambassador was given a message for President Numeiry, in which the Libyan

leader stressed the need for consolidation of relations between the two peoples.

At the meeting, Muammar Qadhafi said that Libyan forces would never attack the Sudan, but would defend her if she were attacked.

Earlier, Qadhafi had referred to Libyan-Sudanese relations in the course of an interview with West German radio on 15th February. He then stressed, 'The Jamahiriya has no political, economic or military ambitions in the Sudan. We will not allow Libyan soldiers to cross the Sudanese border to confront Sudanese soldiers.' President Numeiry's fears concerning Libyan troops in Chad, said Qadhafi, had been raised by Egypt and France merely to reinforce their own presence in the area.

And in his earlier speech to Libyan students in Benghazi on 8th February, Muammar Qadhafi declared, 'We want to put Numeiry's mind at rest: Libyan forces will not cross into Sudan, for there is no cause to fight for there. Libyan soldiers will not fight their brother Sudanese soldiers.'

Qadhafi rejected claims by the colonialist countries that they have vital overseas interests. 'We, and all other peoples, totally reject these silly allegations,' he said. 'Events in Chad have a direct bearing on us, because of our undeniable closeness to the country. On the other hand, events in Chad have nothing to do with French, American or Egyptian security.'

The Libyan leader pointed out, 'In spite of our own interests, we sealed our borders with Chad and we did not interfere in that country for a long time. But recently, we answered an urgent call made by the legitimate Chad government for intervention on its side to end the war there.'

Speaking of the Jamahiriya's role 'in bringing about peace in a country torn apart by long years of civil strife,' and Libya's 'noble actions', Muammar Qadhafi accused 'the colonialist and reactionary world' of embarking 'on a campaign of worldwide deception, trying to blur the issues and our role'.

Turning to 'malicious propaganda' made in the West that Libya was acting a proxy role for the Soviet Union in Africa, and in particular Chad, Muammar Qadhafi emphasised, 'We fully declare that responsibility for our actions in Chad is 100 per cent Libyan, and the Soviet Union has no connection whatsoever with events in the country.'

### No Soviet role

He added, 'The Soviet Union in no way helped Libya in the Chad operation. All administrative and military operations were the total responsibility of the Libyan Arab forces and the Libyan people. Events in Chad have no political or military links to the Soviet Union.'

The Libyan leader pointed out that the Soviet Union had made no comments about Libya's role in Chad, either in support or condemnation. At the same time the Soviets had not condemned the wide-scale colonialist campaign being waged by the United States, despite its place as a leading adversary of the Soviet Union. But while the Soviet Union had remained neutral on the issue, America and other reactionary forces had exploited Libya's intervention in Chad to launch a massive propaganda campaign against the Jamahiriya.

On the subject of the continued presence of Libyan troops in Chad, Colonel Qadhafi made this point: 'We had no intention of keeping one Libyan soldier in Chad after the victory of the Chad Revolution. After the fall of Njamena and Abeche to Libyan and Chad nationalist troops, we sent a letter to the Chad national government informing them that the Libyan mission had ended, and asking for permission to withdraw the Libyan forces. But the Chad government believed that if such a withdrawal took place, the Chad people would be robbed of their gains, especially after the flow of French troops into the Central African Republic and Cameroon, and the signing of the anti-Chad agreement between France and the Sudan.'

## The Qadhafi interview: Other points

IN THE course of his interview with West German Radio, Muammar Qadhafi was asked to comment on a wide range of subjects. The following is a summary of other points made by the Libyan leader.

**Libyan-Syrian merger:** 'The finalisation of the merger depends only on finalising administrative procedures. Both people have taken the important political decision of union, and there is no going back on this decision.'

**Syrian-Soviet friendship treaty:** 'Under present circumstances of Syrian confrontation with Israel, Syria has the right to sign such an agreement. Syria is not alone in reaching such agreement. Other countries have signed treaties of friendship with the Soviet Union that do not infringe upon their national sovereignty. It might one day be necessary for us to sign such a treaty. After the merger with Syria, we shall accept this treaty which is built upon mutual respect. The treaty calls for no military presence of either party's forces on each other's territories.'

**Libya's absence from the Taif Islamic conference:** 'The conference was used as an American platform to attack the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. We should steer clear of great power struggles. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia unilaterally broke off diplomatic relations with Libya. It would, therefore, not have been proper for us to attend a conference in a country which unilaterally broke off relations with us. As a revolutionary and a true Muslim, it would not have been proper to attend a conference in a holy country protected by American AWACs planes which desecrate holy soil.'

**Arab unity:** 'It is enough even that Arab unity remains our goal. As to whether unity is achieved sooner or later, this definitely depends on the exertion of our efforts in the national and international circumstances. The Arab nation is without doubt passing through its worst stage: military colonialism is returning to the region; the United States is building military bases in Egypt, Somalia and Oman; France is increasing its military presence on the Arab world's periphery through the signing of a military agreement with the Sudan. France and the United States are acting in collusion to regain control of old spheres of influence. Furthermore, Zionist expansion in the Arab nation threatens our oilfields, holy places and water resources. These dangerous colonialist attempts might lead to disaster.'

**The role of Islam:** 'The peoples of the Islamic nation are oppressed and exploited, and should revolt against their lot. If Islam were truly liberated, as in the case of Libya and Iran, the Islamic world would need no help from the great powers. Islam could play a positive role in international politics, and broaden the base of positive neutralism.'

**The Kurds and minorities:** 'The radical solution would be to establish a jamahiri society (society of the masses). As for minorities who belong to nations, their return to these nations solves the problem. The Kurds should establish a unified state on Kurdish soil. It is unjust to consider the Kurds a minority subjected to oppression.'

**The outlook for the world:** 'The world's fate hangs in the balance because of the presence of weapons of mass destruction, and the continuing arms race. The only way to face this danger lies in the destruction of these weapons and banning their future production. Nuclear power should be exploited only for peaceful purposes.'

**Relations between Muslims and Marxists:** 'We welcome dialogue with Marxists and non-Marxists. All human beings are our brothers, and man is in need of dialogue with his fellow man so that understanding can prevail throughout the world. Humanity will shed the relics of reactionary thought imbued in us through generations of indoctrination. We should be the ones to take the first essential steps. I believe that the era of the masses is the cornerstone of the new world where equality will prevail and peace will be the norm. In this era, armies will disappear along with governments and individuals who command the destiny of entire peoples. The establishment of the Jamahiriya in Libya is the cornerstone of this era. We are ready to enter into a dialogue with Christians, Marxists, and any individuals wishing to talk to us.'

**Revolution and mankind's freedom:** 'We are certain that the revolution, the Jamahiriya and the people's authority will be victorious not only in Libya, but throughout the world. The people's revolution is the revolution of tomorrow. Though there are differences, the message from Libya today is similar to that of the French revolution. We are certain that the principles we profess are in the interests of all people, and will finally achieve victory. With such principles, the workers will be transformed into partners, houses will belong to their occupants, and land will belong to everyone.'



► Qadhafi continued, 'In effect, the withdrawal of Libyan troops was delayed until such time as the legitimate Chad government felt that the looming dangers on its borders had subsided with the evacuation of French forces from Central Africa, Cameroon, Senegal and Gabon, and an end to French orders issued to its puppets in Africa to threaten Chad's security.'

'The Libyan forces will be ready to leave Chad when the national government can guarantee the security of the Chad people and territories, and when all colonialist, military threats against Chad subside,' Colonel Qadhafi stressed.

#### Message to African leaders

In a move to reassure other Central African countries, Muammar Qadhafi again emphasised, 'Chad's security is linked to Libya's security.' However, recent events should not be interpreted as signalling a wider Libyan intervention policy in the region, as Western intelligence has claimed, as part of its own campaign to strengthen its influence in Central Africa. The Libyan leader addressed himself to the other states in the region when he continued, 'We say to all those fearful minds in Sudan, Niger, and other African countries, that Libyan troops only intervened after urgent and recurrent appeals from the Chadian government. The Libyans have no intention of sending their troops abroad, or engaging in anything but defensive battles.'

And in his interview with West German radio, Qadhafi again emphasised this point. 'We have no wish to send our troops beyond Chad. We are bringing all military confrontations to an end, including the one with Sadat's army. We shall only confront Egypt if its army crosses our border. Then, we might well assume an offensive posture.'

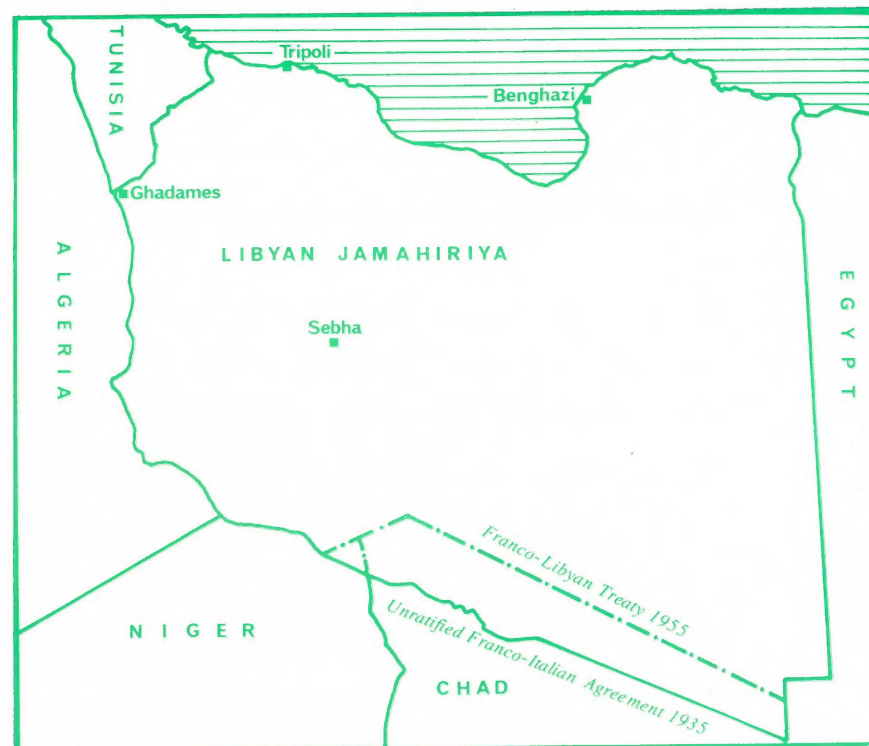
Addressing himself to African leaders, Muammar Qadhafi said during his Benghazi speech, 'The danger to your political regimes and yourselves as rulers, comes from French forces who installed Bokassa, overthrew him, and reinstalled Dakko in Central Africa.'

The Libyan leader observed, 'France has no friends. It has only colonialist interests.'

#### Unity not union

African leaders, continued Qadhafi, 'should have realised that the presence of Libyan troops enhances African stability. Libyan forces that entered Chad enhanced the possibility of the country's legitimate government, and ended the rebellion. Other African regimes also face rebellion. The presence of French forces is in itself a factor that threatens both peace and stability because these forces are behind the coups carried out in Africa to secure colonialist interests.'

'The Chadians believe they are the victims of a military conspiracy being planned on their borders. For this reason, they have clung to our military presence even though we have no intention of staying in Chad,' Qadhafi told German radio. 'When the danger posed by the presence of the French



Frontiers of the Jamahiriya: the broken line shows the borders which France sought to impose on Libya

### The colonial legacy that Libya rejects

MUCH HAS been written in recent months concerning the borders between the Libyan Jamahiriya and Chad; the view of western commentators, rarely knowledgeable about the facts, being that Libya is responsible for annexing part of Chadian territory. The Jamahiriya is accused of moving her borders south, and seizing territory from Chad.

This is a view firmly rejected by Libya. Although this allegation might serve the current propaganda campaign being conducted quite ruthlessly against Libya by the Western media, there can be no doubt that Libya has a strong case in respect of the borders with Chad which the Jamahiriya's authorities recognise.

The Libya-Chad border is not a matter which has been raised only in recent times or by Muammar Qadhafi. It has been disputed for as long as it has been imposed by the colonialist powers. In Libya's case this has involved Turkey, France, Britain and Egypt, each of which has played some part in defining and imposing the Jamahiriya's international administrative boundaries and her external borders.

At stake is 40,000 square miles of territory which until 1955 had been

recognised as being part of Libya. However, in 1955, during the period of the Idris regime, a Franco-Libyan treaty in effect gave France control over 40,000 square miles of Libyan territory, by ceding it to French Equatorial Africa, now Chad. This was a period when France still held Algeria and Tunisia under colonial administration, and remained the major and most powerful colonialist power in the region.

As Dr John I. Clarke of Durham University's Middle East Studies Centre wrote\* in 1963: 'Like many other new African states, Libya resents the arbitrary lines sketched by European politicians and cartographers. The wrangles and muddles by European powers over the frontiers have left a feeling that Libya has been deprived of what is rightfully hers.' He continues, 'There is discontent, therefore, that the Franco-Libyan treaty of 1955 decided upon a frontier between Libya and French Equatorial Africa (now Chad) using straight lines between the Niger tripoint, instead of the more southerly boundary defined by the unratified Franco-Italian agreement of 1935.'

\* Oil in Libya: Some implications, by John I. Clarke, published in *Economic Geography*, Vol.39, No 1, January 1963.

and other forces fades, and when the Chad government agrees to our urgent request, our forces will be removed from Chad.'

On the Libyan-Chad unity agreement announced on 6th January in the joint communique, Colonel Qadhafi said: 'The word unity here means integration and cor-

respondence between both countries' political and social systems. Unity here does not mean constitutional and political union. If any such union does take place after a referendum in both countries, then this would be a first step towards African unity which the OAU charter favours.'

WITH THE Israeli economy in a shambles, it is widely predicted that Shimon Peres and his Israeli Labour Party will trounce Beigin's Likud coalition in the Zionist state's general election scheduled for 30th June. In the West, the prospect of a Labour victory has raised hopes for the settlement of the Palestine question. It is argued that Peres is much less dogmatic than the intransigent Beigin, and would be much more amenable to Israeli concessions that would satisfy the aspirations of the Palestinian people. But there is good reason to believe that Peres' 'flexibility' and 'moderation' are merely cosmetic. The main intention of fostering an image of 'reasonableness' appears to be to regain for the Zionist state some of the international prestige that it has lost in recent years through the openly provocative policies of the Beigin regime.

In December last year the Israeli Labour Party congress approved a foreign policy programme which reveals that what Peres has in store for the Palestinians is not very different from what they are suffering at the hands of Beigin. The foreign policy programme demands careful study, however, for it is full of high-sounding affirmations of the party's deep commitment to peace, justice, democracy etc, and a cursory reading might give the impression that the party really is seeking a just solution of the Palestine issue. An example is Article 3, which states that 'the Labour Party rejects permanent imposed rule over 1,200,000 Palestinian Arabs inhabiting these territories (the West Bank and Gaza Strip)', adding: 'The policy of the Likud, aiming at annexation of the whole West Bank and Gaza and their inhabitants, must be rejected.'

Such statements are designed to mislead. Tucked amongst them are firm commitments to continued Zionist expansionism, to the continued denial by Israel of the legitimate right of the Palestinians to independent statehood, and to the pursuit of policies aimed at the destruction of the PLO, the internationally recognised authentic representative of the Palestinian people.

On territory, the Labour programme says:

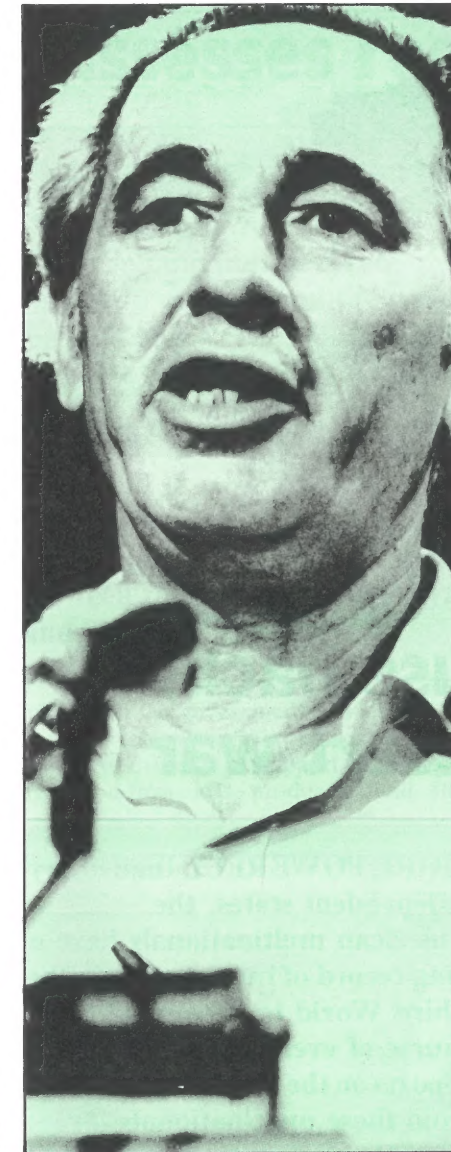
□ Israel 'will not return to the borders of June 4 1967.' (Article 4)

'United Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty is the capital of the state of Israel.' (Article 5)

□ 'The Government of Israel will insist that in peacetime the deployment of the Israel Defence Forces and of the settlements, including the Jordan Valley (including the area to the North West of the Dead Sea), the Etzion bloc, the surroundings of Jerusalem and the Southern Gaza Strip, will be included in the sovereign territory of Israel.' (Article 10)

□ 'The Government led by the Labour alignment will work for consolidation of the Israeli position on the Golan Heights and will insist that in peacetime the security and settlement deployment on the Golan shall be under Israeli sovereignty, as an inseparable part of Israel.' (Article 11).

At a press conference in London on 23rd January Dr Isam Sartawi, a close adviser to



Deceiving the West: Peres rejects Palestinian rights

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, revealed that the areas Peres intends to annex amount to 40 per cent of the entire Palestinian territories seized by the Zionists in 1967. Further, he disclosed that the areas destined for incorporation in the Zionist state contain 90 per cent of the arable land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and almost all the water resources. What this all means for the predominantly agrarian economy of the occupied regions is not difficult to imagine. Deprived of their livelihoods, the residents will have no option but to emigrate. This fits Zionist designs perfectly: they have always wanted Arab land, but not its population.

The Labour Party is resolutely opposed to Palestinian statehood: Article 13 of their programme declares, 'Israel rejects the establishment of an additional (sic) Palestinian state in the territory between Israel and Jordan... The Palestinian problem cannot be solved in a separate state without the territory and population of Jordan.' What Peres has in mind is the creation of a Jordanian-Palestinian state encompassing the territory of Jordan and those small parts of Palestine the Zionists claim to be ready to relinquish.

The Labour Party would attempt to bring about such a 'solution' to the Palestine question with the assistance of Quislings from amongst the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza, although on past form the Zionists will be hard put to find such collaborators. Article 17 of the party programme states: 'Authorised representatives of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza are to be co-opted into the negotiations.'

Not only does the Labour Party firmly reject participation by the PLO in any peace negotiations, but it also issues a declaration of intent to destroy the Palestinian resistance. Article 18 of the programme states: 'The PLO cannot be partners in peace negotiations... Active defence against the PLO in the field of security and the ideological-political field is the duty of any Government in Israel.' Article 27 goes further and mandates a future Labour government to continue the murderous Zionist military strikes against Lebanon. It upholds Israel's 'right to active defence and prevention of sabotage and terror (sic), even when they originate beyond her borders.'

Close scrutiny thus reveals the Labour Party programme to be a recipe for continued oppression of the Palestinian people. The real difference between Shimon Peres and Menachem Beigin has been accurately pin-pointed by Mayor Bassa Shaka of Nablus on the occupied West Bank. On 14th February he told the London journal *8 Days*: 'Both Labour and Likud think that the Palestinians are living in a hotel, not in their own country. The only difference between them is that Beigin wants to be the hotel manager and Peres wants King Hussein to be the manager.'

## The Israeli Labour Party unmasked

TO JUSTIFY further delays in formulating a stand on the Palestine question, the European Community is suggesting that a return of the Israeli Labour Party to power will provide a breakthrough in Zionist positions towards the Palestinians. In this report we examine the Labour Party's programme and find it plans the annexation of 40 per cent of the West Bank.





Another Moroccan defeat in the Western Sahara

## Westinghouse backs Hassan's desert war

MOROCCO'S KING Hassan has tried long to win the loyalties and military support of the United States, France, and other western powers in his scheme to annex by force the Western Sahara. Now, with the assistance of US transnationals, especially Westinghouse, he seems to be succeeding in forcing Washington to come down on his side.

The problem is that Hassan's army has little chance of subduing the population of the Western Sahara and its Polisario Front guerrillas, who are intent on establishing an independent state, the Saharawi Democratic Arab Republic, which is already recognised by nearly 40 countries. Some 60,000 Moroccan troops are bogged down in a no-win war against some 15,000 Polisario guerrillas, costing Morocco more than one million dollars a day.

Despite claims of neutrality in the war, Washington is increasingly allied in Hassan's crusade since it approved the sale of US \$3 million worth of US military equipment last year. If Westinghouse has its way, the US commitment to Hassan's fruitless war will deepen.

The lure for Westinghouse is phosphate: the world's fourth largest phosphate deposit was discovered in Bu Craa in the Western Sahara in 1963. To control phosphate in the

**MORE POWERFUL than many independent states, the American multinationals have a long record of intervention in the Third World to determine the course of events. Steve Talbot reports on the increasing support from these multinationals for King Hassan's attempts to annex Western Sahara.**

Western Sahara would give Morocco a near monopoly over the non-communist world's phosphate reserve, in demand for making fertilizers.

Not only fertilizers but also uranium interests Westinghouse, which with other companies has developed technology for extracting uranium from the phosphoric acid in phosphates. First developed by the Atomic Energy Commission in the 1950s, the uranium from phosphate technology extracts and converts phosphate into pellets for fuel rods used in nuclear power reactors by firms like Westinghouse and General Electric.

### More US tanks for Morocco

*IN A move underlining Washington's continuing determination to prop up western-orientated regimes in the Third World, the Reagan administration has given preliminary notice to Congress that it wants to sell 108 US M60 tanks to Morocco. According to the State Department, the Moroccan request for*

*the tanks was made last July. The United States has been supplying Morocco with arms for some 20 years and the tank request came hard on the heels of a Carter administration decision in March last year to sell King Hassan about \$232 million worth of reconnaissance planes and helicopters.*

Now Westinghouse wants to expand to Morocco.

Michael Judet, Westinghouse's Director of Business Development in the Middle East and Africa noted that his firm has made an offer to sell an unspecified amount of its uranium extraction technology to Morocco. The Government will decide in early 1981 which western transnational will get the Moroccan contract.

Westinghouse has reason to be 'cautiously optimistic', since it secured a US \$200 million contract with Morocco in 1977 to construct a tactical air defence system. The deal was particularly controversial since part of the ground radar system is being installed in the disputed Western Sahara.

A Westinghouse spokesman insists that a uranium extraction operation in Morocco would at first be 'a marginal proposition from an American businessman's viewpoint' since the spot price for uranium is a 'relatively low \$30 a pound'.

But he acknowledged that 'uranium is really a long-term contract market' and a deal with Morocco could be quite profitable over time. In addition, he said that Morocco had a great deal to gain from a uranium industry: hard currency from export sales, jobs in high-unemployment economy, and its own uranium to use as it sees fit.

Westinghouse is not the only US transnational profiting from its involvement in Morocco and US support for King Hassan's war of annexation. Last May, the State Department approved Northrop Page's plan to construct a vast electronic surveillance system to enable Morocco to detect guerrilla movements in the deserts of the Western Sahara. Northrop has not yet closed the deal with the Moroccans, but has sold them F5-E jet fighters armed with 'Maverick' air-to-ground missiles.

The immediate impact of the Westinghouse, Northrop and other US transnationals' contracts with Morocco is to buoy up the Hassan regime and to encourage the King to take over the Western Sahara.

The catch is that Hassan cannot win the guerrilla war: Polisario is too well entrenched, well armed, disciplined and highly motivated and organised. Polisario's outside support, especially from Algeria, seems to be substantial and solid.

That means the US transnationals in Morocco are reinforcing Washington's policy and committing the US to continued close support of the Hassan government.

In criticising the latest Carter arms sale to Morocco, Congressman Stephen Solarz (Dem. N.Y.), Chairman of the House Sub-Committee on Africa, said the weapons 'will encourage intransigence rather than flexibility' on the part of King Hassan and 'will prolong the war rather than shorten it'.

The greatest danger is that the war in the Western Sahara will ignite a larger conflict in North Africa between Morocco and Algeria that could, in turn, lead to a US-Soviet confrontation.

It is a powderkeg which the US recognition of the Western Sahara's right to self-determination could help defuse.

## Tunisia re-assesses regional ties

RELATIONS BETWEEN Tunisia and Algeria seem to be better than they have been in years. The mistrust between the two countries has dissipated and now appears to have given way to the desire for close bilateral co-operation as well as the goal of building what has been known for more than 20 years as the great Arab Maghreb.

This new direction began taking shape when Tunisian Prime Minister, Mohammed Mzali, visited Algiers in December, and took on more concrete form with Algerian Prime Minister, Mohammed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani's recent visit to Tunisia.

The visit began in the village of Sakier Sidiyoussef, on the border between the two nations. The village was levelled by the French air force on February 8, 1958 in a reprisal against the villagers for harbouring and feeding the 'Moujahid', the Algerian guerrillas fighting French colonialism.

The two Prime Ministers observed the 23rd anniversary of the bombing, according to a joint communiqué, 'by emphasising that the events of Sakier Sidiyoussef will forever be a living symbol of the stirring solidarity between the two peoples and the best guarantee of their ardent desire to build a common future base on solidarity, co-operation, and harmony'.

This 'ardent desire' was translated into more concrete terms in an agreement by which the two decided to create a bank with 40 million dollars in capital to develop economic, commercial and financial co-operation between the two countries and finance projects in other nations.

They also agreed to create a joint Office of Industrial Studies to manage modern techniques and study the creation of factories to manufacture construction materials.

All indications are that these agreements and others for financial, educational and technical co-operation will be different from similar agreements in the past which were never carried out. One of the agreements, in fact, called for the creation of a special commission to oversee the operation of the other agreements.

Tunisia's new slant on relations with its neighbours — Algeria, Morocco and Libya — is, according to Information Minister Tahar Belkhouja, 'a return to a policy based on being good neighbours... we believe that a policy of openness and co-operation with our neighbours is the best way to resolve problems.'

Tunisia's relations with Libya, tense since 1974, are relaxing. And co-operation between the two seems to be starting up again. Tunisia's relations with Morocco are sailing right along.

There are many reasons why Mzali's government is making a priority out of relations with its neighbours. Mzali and many people in his government are convinced that Tunisia is destined to be a part of a great Arab Maghreb, and have learned their lesson from the tension of recent years which exploded into the Gafsa Affair in January 1980. Scores died when the Tunisian town of Gafsa came under armed attack one

**A SERIES of recent events have aroused hopes that moves towards unifying the Arab Maghreb might be on the way. From Tunis, Abdelmajid Bejar looks at the effects of recent changes in the Tunisian government, and its fresh approach to regional affairs, while Dr Alan George reports on the improvement of relations between the Libyan Jamahiriya and Tunisia.**

night, and the government blamed Libya, and to a lesser extent Algeria, for responsibility. No evidence to support the charges against Libya was produced, and the

Jamahiriya firmly rejected the allegations.

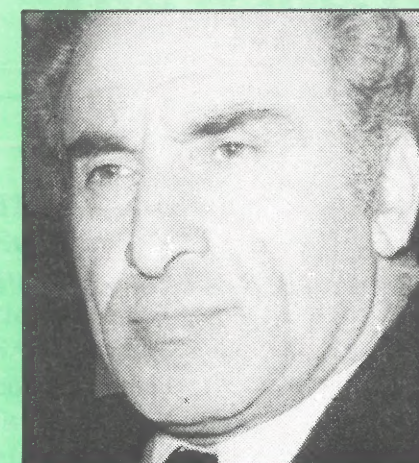
The new agreements are part of an attempt to resuscitate the idea of a great Arab Maghreb, which has lain dormant for several years.

The idea is still bogged down by two problems: the Western Sahara conflict poisoning Algerian-Moroccan relations, and doubts as to whether Libya would belong to such a political or economic entity.

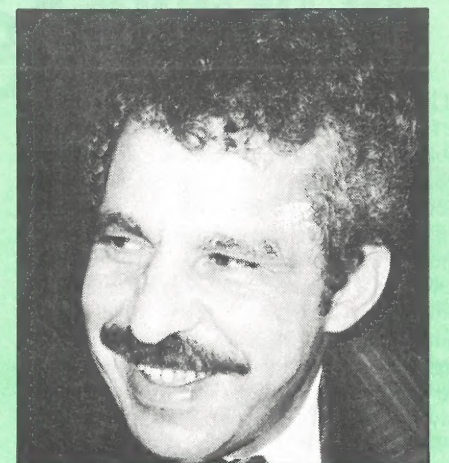
Tunisia is in an embarrassing position on the Western Sahara question, being friendly with two nations who are staunchly opposed to each other.

Premier Abdelghani recently told the Tunisian newspaper 'La Presse' that 'The Saharan people must not be denied their right to freedom and independence'.

Morocco continues to fight the Polisario Front in the Sahara and this makes it hard to see how the idea of the great Arab Maghreb could become a reality. But for now, co-operation between Tunisia and Algeria is a reality. Tunisia's relations with Morocco are good and her relations with Libya are healing.



Dr Ali Treiki



Premier Mzali

### Stage set for close Tunisian-Libyan relations

*A JOINT Libyan-Tunisian committee and several trade agreements reached in 1972-73 are to be reactivated following a visit to Tunis in January by the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Secretary Ali Abdel Salam Treiki. The visit is the clearest sign yet of the improvement in bilateral relations after a year-long period of strain prompted by allegations of Libyan complicity in the uprising in the Tunisian mining town of Gafsa in January 1980.*

*After meeting with Tunisian Premier Muhammad Mzali on 22nd January, Dr Treiki issued a statement describing the talks as 'frank, fraternal, clear and fruitful, and for the benefit of the Tunisian and Libyan peoples,' and confirming that they had dealt with bilateral relations.*

*The thaw in Libyan-Tunisian relations got under way with the appointment of a new government in Tunis last spring under the premiership of Mr Mzali. The removal of former Prime Minister Hedi Nouira was seen as a major move aimed at improving relations with the Jamahiriya. This interpretation was borne out by Dr Treiki's comment after his talks in Tunis that Libya believed 'that the presence of Mr Muhammad Mzali at the head of the Tunisian Government, and the other colleague ministers of this Government, has opened up a positive page in relations between the two countries.' He added that relations between Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi had always been very close, and had been unaffected by the events of the past year.*





## The patriotic voices Sadat tries to silence

'THERE ARE repeated arrests mainly of left-wing opponents of government policies, who are held under security legislation for several weeks or months before being provisionally released. In some instances no charges are brought against them and they do not face trial. Nevertheless, those granted provisional release, in addition to being subject to rearrest at any time, have, on occasion, been denied the right to travel outside Egypt, and may also be subjected to restrictions on their work,' says Amnesty International in its latest 1980 Report.

However, it would be very wrong to believe that Sadat's critics come only from the left and socialist organisations. Amongst those subjected to arrest or restrictions in recent months have been a number of prominent personalities who in the past have served in the Sadat administration.

According to the American journal *World Business* on 26th January, a number of Egyptians previously associated with the Sadat regime are now under investigation. These include Mohammed Abdessalam Zayat, and Aziz Sidqi, both former deputy prime ministers, and Mahmoud Qadi, a former member of the People's Assembly. Each has been summoned to appear before the Socialist Prosecutor, whose role operates under the 'law of shame' passed last year to protect Sadat from public criticism. As *World Business* notes: 'Its penalties include deprivation for five years of political rights, public office, work and permission to leave the country, and internal exile and sequestration of personal funds. In practice its terms are so vague as to be emp-

**WHILE THE Egyptian ruler, Anwar Sadat, is afforded an ovation in the European parliament, and lauded in the western press as a liberal and a democrat, the situation inside Egypt tells a much different story. From harassment and restrictions to imprisonment, Sadat attempts to silence those who question his policies, a special correspondent reports.**

loyable against anyone who offends the government.'

Zayat, Sidqi and Qadi, were amongst 60 or so academicians, lawyers, writers and former politicians — known unofficially as the National Coalition — who signed three statements last year critical of the government. Zayat's case is particularly intriguing; as a lawyer, he helped draft Egypt's first permanent constitution after Sadat came to power in 1970. Last year he published a book *Studies and Speculation on the Permanent Constitution of 1971*, in which he broadly concluded that the constitution had been violated. The book was seized last July after a minor emergency court hearing.

On 22nd May, last year, as the Sadat regime completed its tenth year in power, the League of Egyptian Nationals Abroad launched a campaign for worldwide solidar-

ity with political prisoners in Egypt. It said that in the course of the ten years some 7,000 people had been detained on unfounded political charges, and that many had suffered torture and other forms of physical and psychological maltreatment. The League drew attention to the plight of four prominent political figures, who, it said, had committed no offence other than express their opinion on vital national issues, which they did as state and ruling party officials, and through the channels of formal meetings and official memoranda.

Those named were:

**Ali Sabri**, 63, former Vice-President under President Nasser, and later under Sadat. A death sentence passed by the so-called 'Special Court' was later commuted to life imprisonment, since when he has suffered three heart attacks.

**Farid Abdel Karim**, a lawyer and prominent figure in the Socialist Vanguard led by President Nasser. His health is reported to have deteriorated to the point where a companion has to feed him. His death sentence was also later commuted to life imprisonment.

**Sami Sharif**, 59, President Nasser's Minister for Presidential Affairs. Originally sentenced to death, he is now serving a life sentence, though he suffers from a chronic heart condition.

**Mohammed Fayek**, 45, President Nasser's adviser on African Affairs and Minister of Information. Fayek played a prominent role in assisting the cause of African liberation, which received strong Egyptian support during the Nasser years. He is serving a ten year sentence, but because of his critical health condition, he is frequently moved to a prison hospital which has only the most rudimentary facilities.

Amongst those arrested recently are a group of Egyptians who attempted to make a peaceful protest at the presence of an Israeli stall at the Cairo International Book Fair, which opened on 29th January. On 6th February, two prominent Egyptian writers, Salah Issa and Hilmi Shaarawi were arrested, charged with 'insulting Israel', and jailed for 15 days, pending renewal for interrogation. Their crime was to distribute leaflets at the fair calling for a boycott of the Zionist stand. Three days later, on 9th February, the leader of Egypt's Union of Journalists, Kamal Zuheiri, was charged with 'disseminating anti-Israel propaganda', a reference to the leaflet, of which Zuheiri was one of ten signatories, calling for a boycott of the Israeli display. Also detained were two members of the opposition Unionist Progressive Party, and a journalist from *Ash Sha'ab*, the opposition Socialist Labour Party newspaper.

However, the Sadat regime's role in protecting the Zionists from attack, or even embarrassment, took a step forward during February, with the announcement that three Palestinians and two Egyptians had been charged with planning to carry out anti-Israel sabotage acts in Cairo. The five are alleged to have been planning to obtain information about the number of security guards at the Israeli embassy in Cairo, and the number and location of Israeli troops present in Egypt.

ONE OF the most disturbing aspects of the whole Iranian Embassy incident has been the enthusiasm of the press to glorify the storming of the embassy by SAS gunmen, and the near total failure to look more carefully at the details which have been submerged beneath the welter of congratulation at the apparent skills of the SAS and the British authorities. The glorification of the SAS continued during the January trial of the one surviving gunman, Fowzi Badavi-Nejad. What Badavi-Nejad had to say in court raises many questions which the press conveniently failed to tackle. From his evidence, the Iraqi Embassy in London and the Baghdad authorities were clearly the masterminds behind this terrorist incident. Since the front-line troops are the last people to be taken into the confidence of the strategists of a war, it is left to those of us who believe that democracy is better served by challenging authority rather than simply accepting its dictates to look more deeply into the motives behind the event, and to ask who were the real conspirators.

Firstly, there can be little doubt, in view of the confession of Badavi-Nejad, that the Iraqis were the real masterminds and culprits behind the incident. In Baghdad the team of terrorists were selected, and there can be little doubt that they received their detailed briefings from the Iraqi Embassy in London, and it was from there that they were given their weapons.

The motives of the Iraqis are clear. The gunmen who stormed the Iranian Embassy were used to promote the case for the independence of the region of Iran inhabited by Arabs, and it can be no coincidence that within weeks of promoting this view through the publicity surrounding the embassy incident, Iraq launched its aggression against Iran, and occupied part of that territory.

However, as one delves into the incident, it becomes clear that there are many more questions which have not been answered. Although the British press was unanimous in its praise for the SAS organised blood-bath which ended the embassy incident, the question as to whether it was really necessary has hardly been voiced. The unanimous decision of the media not to give coverage to Badavi-Nejad's disclosures that the operation to seize the embassy was planned by the Iraqis suggests that the press received what is euphemistically termed 'guidance' from a British government department, which in turn prompts questions as to why this should have been done.

It must seem peculiar to others than myself that the SAS should have made such a determined, and largely successful genocide against the team of gunmen inside the embassy. It was as though the SAS were determined that there should be no survivors, yet more rational analysis would lead one to conclude in the event of any crime, particularly of the gravity of seizing a diplomatic mission, that gunmen kept alive could provide important, vital information and evidence as to the organisation behind the scheme.

The tactics of the British authorities, who give the orders to the SAS, are all the more



Genocide at the Iranian Embassy in London last year



## The hand of Baghdad in Prince's Gate, SW7

**THE SEIZURE of the Iranian Embassy in London by Arab gunmen, and the subsequent storming of the embassy by the SAS, has received extensive news coverage. However, certain facts, and their implications, appear to have been deliberately ignored, as Ali Aziz explains.**

questionable, when it is known that the gunmen had already indicated their readiness to surrender several days before the SAS storming of the building. This was the message which Mustafa Karkouti, the Arab journalist held in the embassy, but released before the storming, brought out with him. The gunmen asked only that they be allowed a press conference to put their case to international opinion.

It seems difficult to understand why the British authorities should want to shield the Iraqis from possible exposure as the masterminds behind the hostage taking. Difficult, that is, unless the British authorities, or at least their intelligence agencies, have all along been involved in planning the strategy and tactics behind Iraq's aggression against Iran. Certainly, both Britain (acting in concert with the United States) and Iraq would like to destabilise the Iranian Revolution, and install a pro-Western

regime in power in Tehran. There can be little doubt that British and Iraqi intelligence would be co-operating on this scheme.

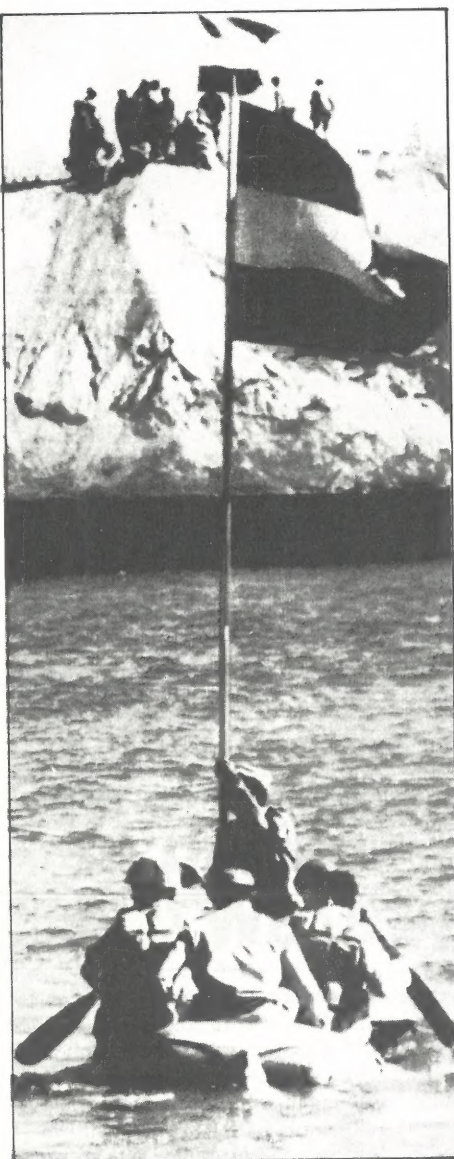
Badavi-Nejad survived the embassy incident not through any generosity on the part of the British or the SAS. He was to have been summarily executed along with the rest of his team. Only intervention by the hostages stopped the SAS dragging him back into the embassy, where he would have been executed.

The accusations against the British authorities, and the charges of complicity with the Iraqis, are given further weight by the absence of any subsequent action on the part of the British to take action against those Iraqi 'diplomats' responsible for aiding the plot to seize the Iranian embassy.

Despite the unequivocal evidence given by Badavi-Nejad, weeks after his trial the British authorities have taken no action against the real culprits responsible for the seizure of the embassy. It is difficult to imagine a similar incident, in which the 'diplomats' responsible would not have been declared *persona non grata*, and forced to leave Britain and return to their masters in Baghdad.

When the western press can fill its columns week after week with wholly unsubstantiated reports aimed at undermining the Libyan Jamahiriya's place in the international community, the silence afforded Iraq's complicity in planning a terrorist operation in the heart of London appears all the more sinister. The file on 27 Prince's Gate, SW7, should not be closed. It is ripe for further investigation.





Egyptian Arab forces cross the Canal

## Sadat: Hero or saboteur of the crossing?

**IN SEARCH of personal glory, Egyptian ruler Anwar Sadat turned the heroic Arab crossing of the Suez Canal and the retreat of the Zionist forces into a near defeat for the Arab nation. Dr Alan George reports on a recent book in which General Saad Shazli gives his account of what happened.**

EGYPTIAN RULER Anwar Sadat likes to style himself 'the Hero of the Crossing', accrediting to himself almost sole responsibility for the first successful Arab offensive against the Zionist state of Israel in October 1973. A new book by General Saad Shazli, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian army during, and for two years prior to, the October war reveals, however, that Sadat, together with his Minister for War, Ismael Ali, bear responsibility for the ultimate failure of the campaign on the Suez front, which ended with the encirclement of the Egyptian Third Army by the Zionist forces.

General Shazli discloses, in his day-by-day account of the war, that the Israeli thrust across the Canal and the cutting-off of the Third Army manning the southern part of the Egyptian bridgehead on the Sinai bank, was the direct consequence of Sadat and his War Minister overruling the clearly stated arguments of the Chief of Staff and other high-ranking army officers. Shazli pin-points major blunders in the conduct of the Suez campaign, each the result of misguided directives from Sadat.

The campaign had always been conceived as a limited operation, the intention being to secure a strip of land a few miles wide along the east bank of the Canal. Nothing more ambitious could be contemplated because of the clear superiority of the Zionists in air power. Egyptian ground forces could be secure against air attack only in a narrow zone protected by surface to air missiles (SAMs). In the absence of mobile SAMs, it would have been fatal to move further east into Sinai. Yet that is precisely what Sadat ordered. Not content with the achievement of the limited objectives of the assault, Sadat and Ismael on 12th October ordered four separate thrusts by Egyptian armour towards the key passes that control entry to Sinai. It was a grave error. To compound it, Ismael ordered that the attacks be conducted by the units held in reserve on the west bank of the Canal specifically to counter any possible Israeli penetration across the waterway. The outcome was as disastrous as Shazli and his field commanders had predicted. All four thrusts were beaten back with heavy losses.

With the west bank now denuded of reserves, the way was clear for the Israelis to cross the Canal. Shazli and his commanders argued fiercely for the return of armoured units to the west bank to counter just such an Israeli move. They were overruled. The result is well known. The Israelis succeeded in crossing to the west bank in the Deversoir region. Even this did not change Sadat and Ismael's stubborn view that no forces should be withdrawn from the east bank. What Shazli calls a 'reckless plan' was devised whereby units of the Second and Third Armies on the east bank were to move north and south against the Israeli breach, while an infantry brigade attacked from the west bank due east against the Israeli bridgehead. Heavily outnumbered in the battle zone, the Egyptian forces were beaten back.

The final, and fatal, blunder came on 19th October. The Israelis had succeeded in expanding their bridgehead on the west

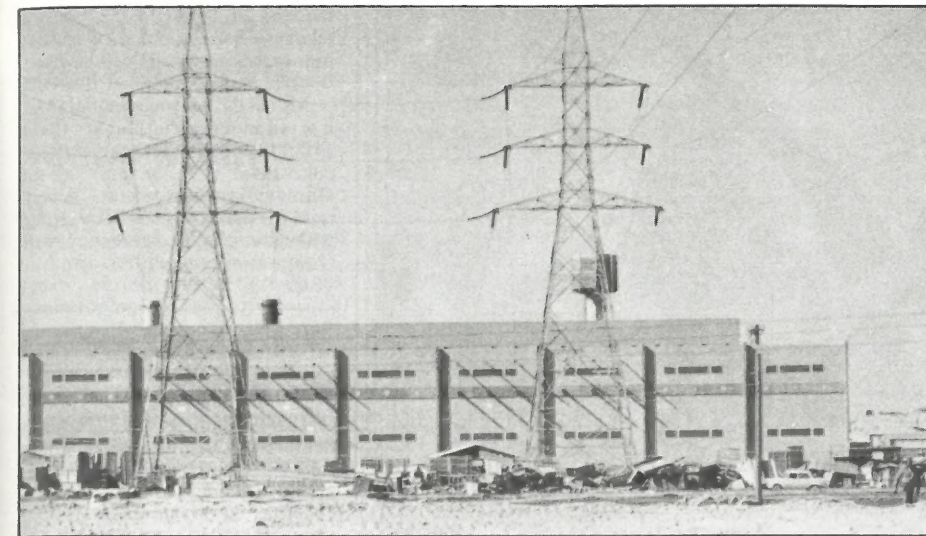
bank and the Egyptian Third Army was now in real danger of encirclement. Shazli argued that four armoured brigades must be withdrawn from the east bank to avoid disaster. Sadat, evidently more concerned with public relations than military realities, persisted in his folly that not a man, not a weapon should be transferred from Sinai. To transfer forces would be interpreted as a sign of weakness, he claimed. Militarily, his refusal to countenance what the situation demanded led directly to the encirclement of the Third Army. 'To refuse to withdraw the four armoured brigades was a combination of madness, ignorance and treason,' declares Shazli.

*The Crossing of the Suez* is a sad book. It tells how a campaign planned down to the minutest detail, and which had been under preparation ever since the 1967 defeat, was wrecked by politicians ignorant of military affairs. As Shazli says: 'The president and his Minister of War, neither particularly competent military men, seemed unable to grasp that the job of a commander is to think ahead.' The extent of the disaster caused by Sadat's overruling of his Chief of Staff and field officers is succinctly put by General Shazli: 'The president had thrown away the greatest army Egypt had ever assembled. He had thrown away the biggest airlift the Soviet Union had ever mounted. He had thrown away the greatest collaborative effort the Arabs had achieved in a generation.'

Although sad, the book is invaluable. The Sadat regime has put so much effort into re-writing the history of the war, and discrediting General Shazli in the process, that the book has an indispensable role in putting the record straight. It was published only after a great deal of soul searching. Shazli describes in his introduction how, exiled as Egyptian Ambassador first to London, then to Lisbon, he hesitated, not yet seeking open confrontation with Sadat. But in November 1977 Sadat 'made that ill-conceived visit to Israel, giving much and gaining nothing. In April 1978 he achieved the dubious distinction of becoming the first head of state to publish his memoirs while still in office; even by the relaxed standards of such works, his are remarkably self-serving. Every achievement of Egypt has been his personal success, it seems; every failure was the fault of others. Finally, in May 1978, Egypt saw the logical culmination of such egotism, when Sadat launched oppressive measures against his political opponents as the only way left to silence the mounting criticism of his policy. I decided to speak out.'

General Shazli dedicates his book to the soldiers and officers of the Egyptian armed forces, saying they are the witnesses of the truth of what he writes. The only people who will deny the truth, says General Shazli, 'are those who have sold themselves, in some cases literally, to President Sadat; and for them I care nothing.'

*The Crossing of Suez: The October War (1973) by General Saad El Shazli, Third World Centre for Research and Publishing London, 1980 £9.90 hard covers.*



A power station east of Tripoli

## Libya expands electricity generation capacity

ADDRESSING THE General People's Congress in Tripoli in January, Planning Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa reported that investments in the electricity sector during the period of the 1976-80 Transformation Plan had totalled LD 860 million, resulting in a growth in real terms averaging more than 20 per cent per annum in the sector, only a fraction below the planned average growth rate of 23 per cent. Generating capacity, he said, had increased from 879 MW in 1975 to 1,950 MW last year, and actual output increased from 1,869 kWh in 1975 to 4,800 kWh in 1980.

With total development expenditure in the new 1981-85 plan set at LD 18,500 million (\$62,478.9 million), more than twice that of the previous plan, and with the electric power sector scheduled to expand at an average annual rate of 15.1 per cent during the plan period, it is no surprise that the Jamahiriya is currently engaged in a spate of projects in the electricity sector.

On 10th February the Jamahiriya News Agency reported that construction of five major power stations is currently under way or to start shortly, while three existing stations are undergoing expansion. The five new stations, at Homs, Zouara, Aril, Serir and Sebha, will have a combined capacity of 4,081 MW. The expansion of the three existing plants, at Tobruk, Derna and Benghazi north, will increase their capacity by a combined 360 MW.

Five companies are reportedly bidding for construction of the six by 120 MW Zouara station. They comprise Brown Boveri & Compagnie of Switzerland, a Libyan-Indian joint venture known as ECCO, Japan's C Itoh, an east European joint venture of Yugoslavia's Energoinvest and Czechoslovakia's Skoda and an Italian joint venture between Ansaldo Meccanico Nucleare and Gruppo Industrie Elettromeccaniche per Impianti all'Estero. Apart from the power station, the turnkey contract will include a desalination plant with a capacity

**THE WHOLE of the Libyan Jamahiriya's massive industrial development plan, along with much social development, depends on the country's ability to boost its power output. Dr Alan George reports on the achievements in this sector, and looks at some of the schemes currently under construction.**

of 40,000 cubic metres per day, a 22kV substation and about 300 homes. Seven companies have bid for a separate design and supervision contract.

The power station at Homs, reports JANA, is in its second stage of construction and is scheduled for completion in 1985, bringing its capacity to 960MW, making it the largest station in the Libyan Jamahiriya.

Side-by-side with the expansion of generating capacity has gone a rapid extension of the distribution grid. By 1977 1,035 kilometres of very high tension (220kV) transmission line had been erected while the length of high tension (66kV) lines was increased from 150 kilometres in 1970 to 965 kilometres in 1977. In early February the Electricity Secretariat disclosed that projects currently under way include: a 780 kilometre 220kV transmission network linking Homs and Misrata; a 100 kilometre link between Shakshouk and Nalout; a 42 kilometre line between Tripoli west power station and Al Hira; a 22 kilometre link between the Homs power station and the town; and a short line between Tripoli's east and west power stations.

Work is now drawing to a close on 1,329 kilometres of 66kV power lines, of which 335 kilometres are in the Nalout and

Ghadames regions, 116 kilometres in the Tobruk and Bardiyyah regions, 220 kilometres in the Sirte and Ras Lanouf areas, 18 kilometres in the Bani Walid and Abu Ghrair regions, 130 kilometres in the areas of Bil Gir and Shwairif, 350 kilometres in the Wadi Nina and Noun regions and 260 kilometres in the Mizda region.

The Electricity Secretariat reports work is under way on twelve 200 V transformer stations at Zamzam, Marsa Brega, Sirte, Agedabiyeh, Tamimi, Saraj, Ain Zara, Nalout, Garabolli, Mrada, Homs and Misrata. Most are expected to be completed by the end of this year. Nine 66 Volt substations are also under construction, at Nalout, Sinaoun, Darj, Ghadames airport, Sultan Bin Jawad, Ras Lanouf and East Sirte.

Last October Yugoslavia's Energoinvest was reported to have won a contract to design, supply and erect 2,500 kilometres of 220kV double circuit transmission line. The contract with the Electricity Secretariat also entails the construction of 25 switching substations to link Kufra, in south east Libya, and Sebha, in the south west, with the Mediterranean coast. Work is for completion in four years.

The incorporation of a desalination plant at the projected Zouara power station highlights the emphasis that the Jamahiriya has placed on joint desalination and electricity generation plants. By May 1978 sixteen power stations has been established along the coast, of which ten were associated with desalination plants. The three most important were in Tripoli, with a generating capacity of 325 MW, in Benghazi, with a capacity of 180 MW and in Tobruk, with a 127 MW capacity. The Electricity Secretariat reported in February that in addition to the Zouara plant, three desalination plants are currently under construction or will shortly be started, at Homs, Mlita and Zoueitina, with a combined capacity of 182,000 cubic metres of water per day, while the existing plant at Derna is being expanded.

The Libyan Jamahiriya has not yet entered the league of countries with a nuclear generating capacity but it seems certain that it soon will. There are believed to be substantial uranium deposits, especially in the Kufra region in the south east and the creation in January of an Atomic Energy Secretariat underlines the determination to employ nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In 1975 a contract was signed with the Soviet Union for a 10 MW reactor, the intention being to use it for research. Although the reactor has not been delivered yet, Libya has gone ahead with a nuclear training programme at the new nuclear technology department at Tripoli's Al Fateh University.

Interest now centres, however, on a planned integrated nuclear complex, probably to be built at Garabolli, some 50 kilometres east of Tripoli, comprising a generating station, a desalination plant and research laboratories. The contract was signed in 1977 and the plant's capacity is projected at 440 MW. Construction will take between six and twelve years.



## New facilities for the disabled

A NOTABLE aspect of the Libyan Jamahiriya's health care programme has been the emphasis placed on facilities for the disabled. This stems in part from the terrible injuries sustained by the Libyan people during the Second World War, when they stood as innocent by-standers while European armies fought across their land. To this day mines laid during the war are taking a fearful toll.

The Jamahiriya's commitment to its handicapped citizens was underlined by the announcement in January that Sweden's Skanska Cementgjuteriet has won a \$74.8 million turnkey contract for two rehabilitation centres for the physically disabled. Identical in design, one is to be built in Benghazi, the other in Tripoli, for completion by the middle of next year. Both centres will have a 10,000 square metre clinic and will be equipped with an X-ray department, an operating theatre, a rehabilitation workshop, a swimming pool and canteen. Each will be able to cater for 100 in-patients and 150-200 out-patients. Skanska is also to build 78 staff villas at each centre.

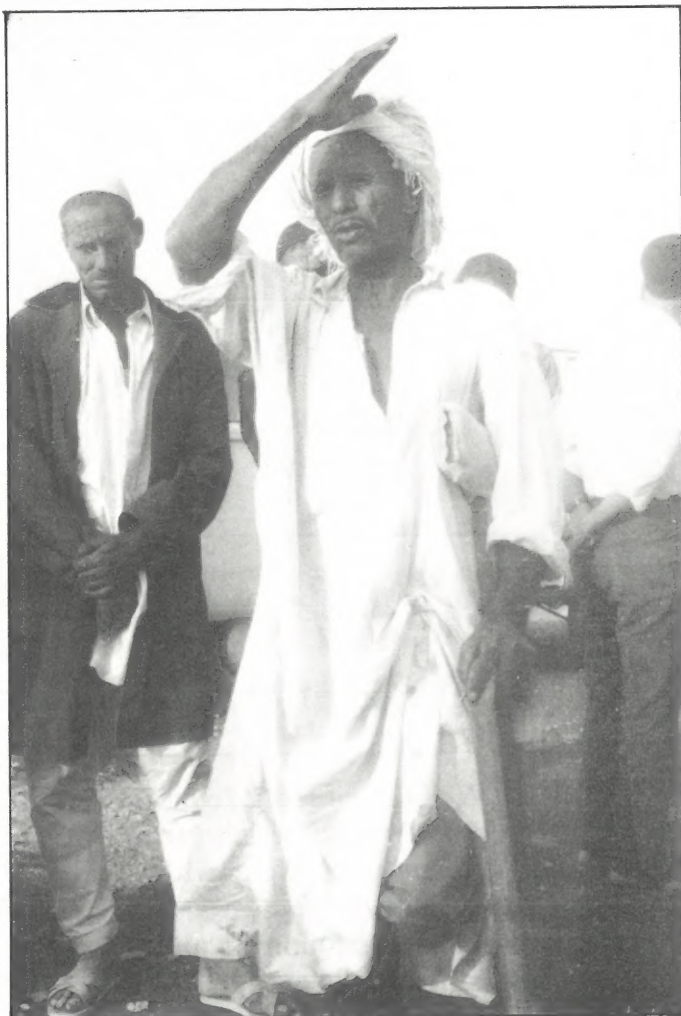
The Al Fateh Revolution's concern for the social well-being of the Libyan people was also highlighted by a 2nd January report from the Jamahiriya News Agency (JANA) that a contract has been signed for the construction of five social centres in Tripoli, Sebha, Gharian, Misrata and Derna. The centres will include study and lecture halls, libraries, gymnasia and sports grounds.

It was the Libyan Jamahiriya that in 1977 proposed the designation of 1981 as the United Nations International Year of the Handicapped.

## Major urban expansion scheme

THE LIBYAN coastal town of Sirte is reportedly scheduled for a major expansion programme with development projects including the construction of about 3,000 homes, and a hospital, schools, shops and a mosque. Planned industrial developments are a six-unit, 60,000 cubic metre per day capacity desalination plant, a 200 MW power station, a foundry and a petrochemicals complex.

The first step towards the establishment of the petrochemicals complex was taken in January when a contract was signed for the construction of a nitrate fertiliser works with a capacity of 120,000 tonnes per annum of ammonia salts and 150,000 tonnes of urea fertiliser. The project, due for completion in five years, includes a housing estate and associated infrastructure, and will employ 5,000 workers. According to the Jamahiriya News Agency on 15th January, the plant will make Libya the largest producer of fertiliser in the Mediterranean region.



Landmines from World War II continue to take their toll amongst the Libyans. See report on facilities for disabled

## Steel works at centre of Misrata urban development

FOLLOWING January's announcement of the initial contracts for the Jamahiriya's first integrated iron and steel works at Misrata, about 150 kilometres east of Tripoli, it has been disclosed that Friedrich Krupp of West Germany has received letters of intent for three other contracts for the steel complex. The first, and largest, is for one of two steel production plants. The other two are for pipe and fire-fighting systems. The three contracts are together valued at \$656.5 million. According to *Middle East Economic Digest* on 23rd January, Korf, also of West Germany, is well-placed to win the contract for the second steel production plant.

Japan's Kobe Steel had earlier announced a \$801.8 million contract to supply the bar and wire rod mill, and a shape rolling mill. A hot rolling mill contract is yet to be awarded.

On 1st February the Jamahiriya News Agency reported that a contract had been signed with a foreign company for the construction of a power station and sub-stations for

the steelworks, the linking of the station to a 220kV grid, and the construction of building maintenance workshops and a water purification plant. Another contract reported at the same time provides for the construction of a desalination plant for the steelworks, with Libyan personnel to be trained with a view to their eventually taking over the plant's operation.

The steel works is the focus of ambitious urban development schemes in Misrata. In January it was reported that Hidrogradnja Gradjevinsko of Yugoslavia has won a \$15.5 million contract to install a water supply network for the town. Water will be pumped from 20 wells to two 2,000 cubic metre reservoirs, and then into the urban distribution system.

Tender documents for housing for the workers at the steel works will very likely be issued in March, with the first contract to be for earth moving at the site, about five kilometres north west of the steel works. West Germany's Weidelp-lan Consulting is preparing final design and tender specifications for the first stage of the housing scheme. This entails the construction of four neighbourhoods, each housing 5,000 people. Completion is to coincide with the first phase construction of the steel works, which is planned to be finished by

the end of 1985. In the housing scheme's second phase, a further four neighbourhoods will be built, doubling the population to 40,000.

Also in the heavy industrial field, it was announced in January that a 170,000 tonnes per year capacity coke plant is to be built in the Homs region, near Misrata. A contract for the works has been signed with an undisclosed company, with completion scheduled in four years.

## Gas plant for Benghazi

ON 19TH January Light Industry Secretary Dr Amr Ahmad al Maqsi signed a contract with an undisclosed foreign company for the construction of a gas plant in Benghazi. The plant's daily output will be 100 cubic metres of oxygen, 30 cubic metres of acetylene, 60 cubic metres of liquid oxygen and 20 cubic metres of nitrous oxide. Production is destined for industrial and medical uses.

## Contracts signed for Ras Lanouf schemes

RECENT WEEKS have seen the signing of new contracts relating to the mammoth petrochemicals complex under construction at the coastal town of Ras Lanouf. A contract to insulate, fireproof and paint the ethylene plant has been awarded to Meisei Industrial of Japan. Work on the \$49.2 million contract is to start in April for completion in February 1983. Earlier it was reported that Italy's Carlo Gavazzi Impianti has a \$9 million contract to install instrumentation and automation systems at the ethylene plant, with completion due for June next year.

A new town is planned to accompany the petrochemicals complex and a letter of intent for the town's first phase, valued at about \$250 million, has been received by a Turkish joint venture of Enka and Kutlutas. The work entails the construction of 1,130 homes plus infrastructure. Tender documents for the second stage have been issued to a number of international contractors. This involves the construction of five apartment blocks, a motel, a supermarket, a primary school, a kindergarten and associated infrastructure.

## Cement output rises

CEMENT PRODUCTION in the Libyan Jamahiriya was nearly 1.5 million tonnes in the first nine months of last year. This compares with a 1979 total of 1.6 million tonnes. A one million tonnes per year cement works at Homs recently started production, while a further two works of similar capacity are being built at Derna and Zliten by Mitsubishi and Kawasaki, both of Japan.

## Agricultural development gathers momentum

LIBYA'S NEW Five Year Plan calls for the Jamahiriya's agricultural output to grow by an average 7.4 per cent per annum during the plan period, with agricultural developments and a parallel growth of food processing industries significantly lessening the country's current dependence on food imports. Recent weeks have seen developments in the agricultural sector that underline the determination to achieve the plan's objectives.

The Secretariat for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation's fleet of 45 aircraft has been spraying fertiliser over a 40,000 hectare area in the Kimraya, Wadi Jarir, Atlat, south Zleiten and Hamada al Hamra regions, reported the Jamahiriya News Agency (JANA) on 2nd February. About 80 kilograms of fertiliser are being applied per hectare. All the land involved is used for pasture, and the intention is to improve the quality of grazing.

The Secretariat's planes have also been active in sowing crops from the air. More than 67,000 hectares of irrigated land have been sown with wheat, barley and alfalfa this season.

The vast southern area of the Jamahiriya has also been the scene of agricultural and related developments. A \$6.5 million contract has been won by Finland's Finnmap to prepare cartographic surveys and draw up a twenty year land use plan for a 700,000 square kilometre area.

Exploiting Finnmap's skills in aerial photography, an affiliate, Kaista and Sebbas, will produce town plans for 57 localities in the area. Sebha is the last part of the Libyan Jamahiriya to be subjected to comprehensive regional planning.

In some areas, however, the pace of agricultural development is such that housing projects are an urgent need. One such locality is Maknousa, for which the Housing Secretariat has just completed plans for a new town. The scheme provides for 200 homes, a 12-classroom primary school, clinic, market, mosque and bus station. New roads, sanitation works and fresh water reservoirs are also planned.

The new town will house workers from the Maknousa agricultural project, one of several in the desert region engaged in wheat production. Started in 1978, some 2,400 hectares are now under cultivation, with irrigation being provided by 60 wells. In 1978-79 the project's wheat production was 12,178 tonnes, representing an average yield of 5.1 tonnes per hectare, a very high figure for desert wheat production.

In the Jebel Akhdar region of north east Libya, meanwhile, a



Aerial crop spraying in the Libyan Jamahiriya

long-standing programme of afforestation has been given new impetus by the recent call of the General People's Congress to build up the region's economy to underline the Jamahiriya's determination that it should not become a zone of confrontation with the armed forces of the Sadat regime in Egypt. On 11th December Libyan revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi himself participated in the afforestation campaign, for which there has reportedly been no shortage of volunteers.

## New sea link

A CONVENTIONAL cargo service from the UK to the Libyan port of Marsa Brega has been started by London-based Sutcliffe and Searle Shipping, reported *Middle East Economic Digest* on 6th February. Vessels leave Shoreham, on Britain's south coast, every five weeks.

Also, in the field of maritime transport, it was reported in January that a programme of development of Tobruk's port has been completed. The work included the construction of several jetties and a new dry dock.

## New trade deals with eastern Europe

YUGOSLAV COMPANIES are to work on specific projects with a total value of \$2,000 million, according to an agreement signed in Belgrade on 2nd February. The schemes are in the industry,

agriculture and construction sectors. Bilateral trade this year is expected to reach \$800 million, while in the past two years Yugoslav companies have carried out schemes in the Libyan Jamahiriya valued at a total of \$1,000 million.

The trade agreement was signed by Planning Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa and Yugoslav federal executive council member Vuko Dragasevic after a meeting of the joint committee for economic, cultural and scientific co-operation.

Meanwhile, a Hungarian company has won a \$100 million contract for the construction of 1,000 apartments in Tripoli and another Hungarian company, Chemimas, has supplied a Videoton R-10 computer to the Central Research Institute for Physics.

## Real estate bank established

A REAL estate and savings bank with a capital of \$234 million has been established in the Libyan Jamahiriya under a law approved on 2nd February by the General People's Congress. The establishment of such a bank was agreed during the January session of the General People's Congress in Tripoli, and follows a resolution calling for a property bank to be set up passed at the third ordinary session of the Basic People's Congress last year. The new bank will combine the real estate operations of the Industrial and Real Estate Bank of Libya, the National Investment Company and the Real Estate Investment Company.

## Petrochemicals plant for Marsa Brega

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of two major contracts for petrochemicals projects at Marsa Brega, on the Gulf of Sirte, assures the town's future as one of the three foci of the Jamahiriya's rapidly growing petrochemicals sector. The others are Ras Lanouf, about 125 kilometres west of Marsa Brega, and Abu Kammash, near the Tunisian frontier.

In late January a \$97.3 million contract for a 1,750 tonne per day urea plant at Marsa Brega was won by a consortium of Ude of West Germany, Belleli Industrie Meccaniche of Italy and Società Imprese Industriali, also of Italy. The contract is for completion in 34 months.

The same consortium is soon to sign another contract to build a 1,000 tonne per day methanol plant at Marsa Brega, reported *Middle East Economic Digest* on 13th February. This second contract is valued at \$100 million and work should be completed late in 1983.

There are already two urea plants at Marsa Brega, with a combined capacity of 2,000 tonnes per day. The port town also has a methanol plant of 1,000 tonnes per day and a 1,000 tonnes per day capacity ammonia plant. A second ammonia plant is currently under construction. The petrochemicals complex draws its raw materials from the Hataiba gas field deep in the Sahara.



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# jamahiriya review

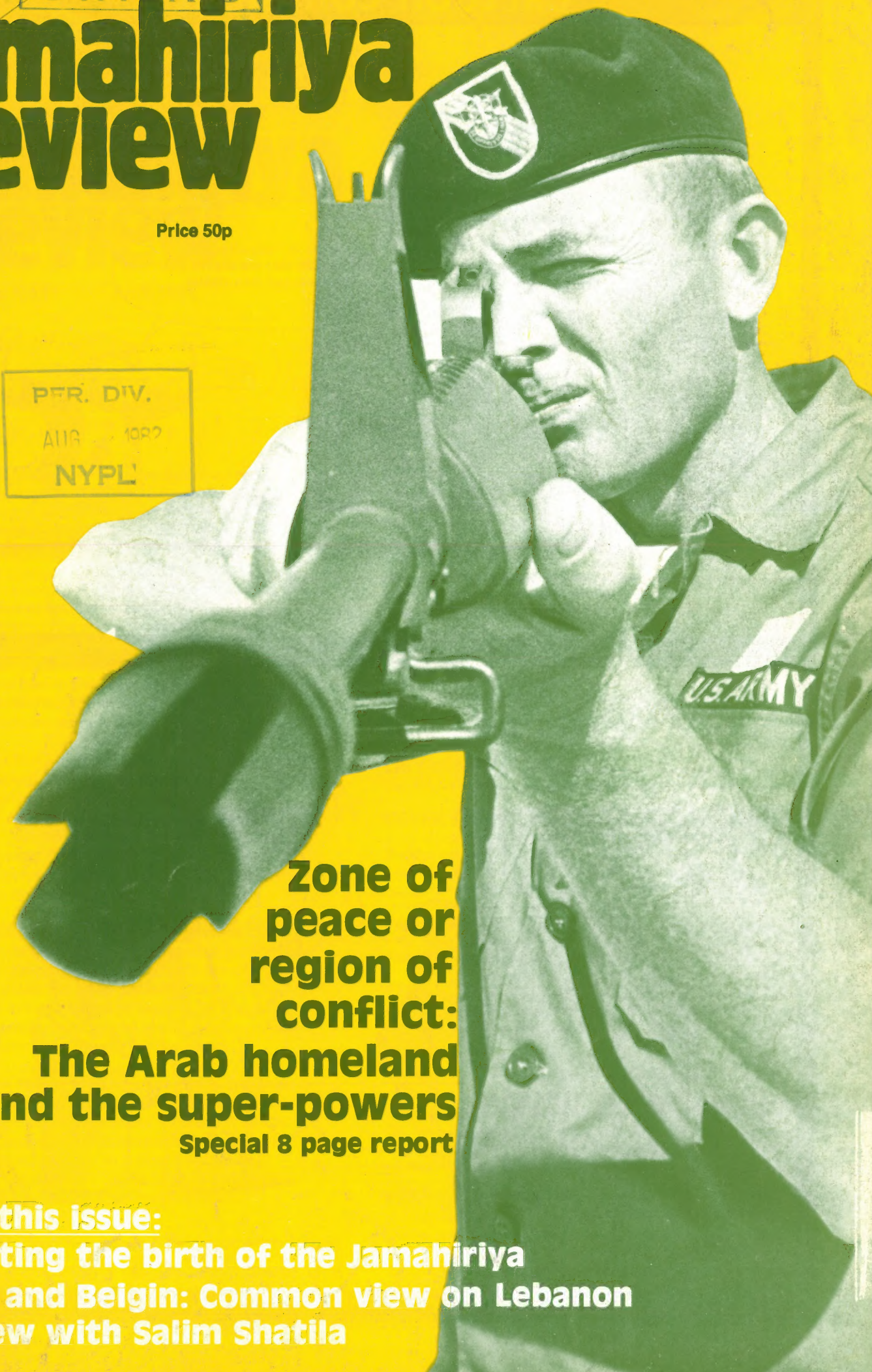
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